

STARS AND STRIPES®



**Falcons take
big step toward
NFC South title**

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Falcons quarterback Michael Vick

**Yokota airman
vows judges at
'Idol' contest**

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**Rapper O.D.B.
collapses, dies in
recording studio**

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'We had the green light ... and we went all the way'

- General says Fallujah captured far quicker than expected
- U.S. casualties at 38 during offensive on city, military says

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**Photo leads
to unwanted
attention
for Marine**

**Cigarette break
brings stardom
to the battlefield**

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Marine Lance Cpl. James Blake Miller, a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment smokes a cigarette last week in Fallujah. The photo has thrust the reluctant Miller, a 20-year-old from Jonancey, Ky., into the role of poster boy for the war.

LUIS SINCO/Los Angeles Times

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Specter's leadership: Sen. Arlen Specter must prove to his Republican colleagues that he is the right man to head the Senate Judiciary Committee in the next Congress, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said Sunday.

Frist, R-Tenn., would not say if he backed Specter, R-Pa., for the job. Specter will make his case to GOP colleagues this week when Congress returns for a postelection session.

Specter, an abortion rights supporter, angered conservatives by suggesting after Nov. 2 election that judicial nominees with anti-abortion views would have a tough time winning Senate confirmation.

Elizabeth Smart case: Attorneys for a man accused of kidnapping Elizabeth Smart have asked a Salt Lake City judge for additional competency evaluations, potentially delaying a trial already held up for months over the issue.

Heidi Buchi, a lawyer for Brian David Mitchell, argued in a motion filed Wednesday that she has seen a marked decline in Mitchell's capacity to assist in his defense.

Deputy District Attorney Kent Morgan said Friday that Mitchell should be examined briefly to determine if his status has changed.

Authorities say Mitchell and his wife, Wanda Barzee, kidnapped Smart, then age 14, from her bedroom in June 2002.

Titanic damage: The man who found the remains of the ocean liner Titanic nearly two decades ago has returned to the site and is lamenting the damage done by visitors and souvenir hunters.

Undersea explorer Robert Ballard discovered the wreckage of the famous vessel in 1985. He returned to the North Atlantic site this summer for the first time, using remotely controlled submersibles to get a look at the liner, which sank in 1912 after striking an iceberg.

What he found was serious damage to the ship caused by deep diving submarines that have visited the site over the years.

Military

USS Cole attacks: A man the United States alleges was the roommate of a suicide bomber in the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen refused to appear before a U.S. military review panel at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an official said Saturday.

The 26-year-old detainee was accused of traveling to Afghanistan to fight for the Tal-



Popeye the senior citizen: An image of Popeye sits in an exhibit Saturday dedicated to the cartoon character at the Museum of Television and Radio in New York. The museum unveiled a retrospective Saturday featuring rarities and collectibles from the cartoon hero's career as Popeye celebrates his 75th birthday this year.

ban and meet with al-Qaida recruiters, said Lt. Gary Ross, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunal.

The attack on the USS Cole in 2000 killed 17 American sailors when a bomb-laden boat rammed the hull of the destroyer in the port of Aden, Yemen. Military officials declined to say when or where the detainee roomed with the suicide bomber.

Army rape charge: An Army lieutenant will face a hearing next week into allegations he raped a fellow soldier in Mississippi, military officials said Saturday.

Michael R. Hall of the 278th Regimental Combat Team will appear at an Article 32 hearing, similar to a civilian court grand jury hearing, on Tuesday at Camp Shelby, Miss.

The hearing will consider charges of rape, conduct unbecoming an officer and adultery, Lt. Col. Richard Steele said.

The alleged victim, also a lieutenant, said

she was raped in August by a fellow officer in the Tennessee-based combat team, which was training at Camp Shelby. The soldiers are among the New Jersey National Guard members who belong to the combat team.

World

Serbian war crimes: Serbia's Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica said Sunday in Belgrade that his government cannot arrest war crimes suspects sought by the U.N. tribunal because it would undermine the Balkan republic's stability.

But Kostunica suggested that authorities are trying to negotiate the surrender of at least some of the 15 Serb suspects sought by the court in The Hague, Netherlands.

Kostunica faces huge international pressure to cooperate with the U.N. court, which is trying those responsible for atrocities committed during the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

Irish peace process: The Ulster Defense Association, Northern Ireland's largest outlawed group, announced Sunday it wants to reject peacemaking efforts, a potentially significant step forward in the peace process.

The anti-Catholic group, which killed more than 400 people in its self-proclaimed "war" against Irish Republican Army supporters, issued the statement two days after Britain announced it had accepted that the UDA was observing a truce.

In its statement, the UDA said: "From today we are prepared to move into a process. Our commitment to that process will be to work towards a day when there is no longer a need for a UDA."

Pakistani-Indian talks: Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said Sunday in Islamabad he will discuss all outstanding issues, including the territorial dispute over Kashmir, with his Indian counterpart during a visit to New Delhi next week.

Aziz is to leave for India on Nov. 23 as chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, or SAARC. He also is to visit Sri Lanka and the Maldives to discuss regional and international issues.

Chechen civilian casualties: At least 100 civilians have been killed in Chechnya since the start of the year, and 100 others who were abducted are still missing, a leading Russian human rights group said Sunday.

Most of those who died were killed by federal forces and their local collaborators, said Dmitry Grushkin of the Memorial Human Rights Center.

Photo and stories from wire services

"The photo
is actually
woven
into the
blanket

so wash
after wash
the image
will never
fade."

Family

Baby
Toddler
Mom&Dad
Grandma&Gramps



Pets

Dog
Horse
Cat
Bird

Holidays

Mother's Day
Father's Day
Christmas
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Yokota crowns newest 'Idol'

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — So who's the next Yokota Idol?

Meet Airman 1st Class Tia Pickett, a 20th Operational Weather Squadron forecaster. Her powerful vocals and stage presence wowed three judges and a packed crowd in the Yokota Enlisted Club's main ballroom Saturday night to help her claim the title.

The Meridian, Miss., native — who arrived at Yokota about a month ago with her husband, Malcolm, and daughter, Mekia — was awarded a \$500 cash prize and one-song demo opportunity in the studio, courtesy of Hunger Entertainment, which tossed in an extra \$100.

"I'm so pumped up right now," Pickett said, minutes after Edging Debra Lanza and Staff Sgt. Jessica Hayes in a vote based entirely on audience applause. "This feels like the equivalent of winning the lottery — and it's not even the money. Just having so many people into my craft like that is unbelievable feeling."

"I've never experienced anything like this. I just love to sing, and to have a crowd feel you like that, it's just awesome."

Yokota Idol 3, patterned after the Fox hit "American Idol," featured 10 contestants willing to showcase their talents before more than 400 spectators and the critical glare of a panel of three judges, who didn't shy from deliv-

ering the occasional scathing review.

Leo Polanco and Deanna Jenkins played the roles of "American Idol" judges Randy Jackson and Paula Abdul, respectively, while the infamous Simon Cowell part was filled by a Hunger Entertainment representative who simply went by Sterling. Hunger Entertainment is a radio recording company that targets the U.S. military and searches for talent within its ranks.

Sterling's key piece of advice?

"Don't be afraid," he told the group backstage. "That's the biggest thing. If you've got it, you've got it. It doesn't matter if there's 10 people out in the audience or a million. Don't be scared to sing the song. Let it all out. Make me cry."

The 10 performers sang for three minutes each in the first round; the judges narrowed the field to six for the second phase and then three for the final round.

Staff Sgt. Don Cruz, a 459th Airfield Squadron flight engineer and the lone male singer among the contestants, managed a top-six finish in his first competitive appearance.

"It's really nerve-racking," he said, "but not because of the crowd. The girls here sing really well, and it's tough being the only guy. I'm having fun, though."

"I'm just glad getting into the top six. It's been a good experience, and I might do it again next year."

His wife, Marissa, who works

at Yokota's Child Development Center, also made the first cut on her debut public performance.

"It's awesome. I've really enjoyed it," she said, adding that her husband first floated the idea of entering the contest. "It's fun, but I'm probably not gonna do it again. Sterling is very harsh, but he's right. I admit, I'm not that good and messed up a bit. I'm not going to take it personally."

Marissa Cruz, who sang Gloria Estefan's "Anything For You" and The Eagles' "Desperado" in her two trips to the stage, conceded she was "so nervous. I'm not used to singing in front of 400 people."

Sharon Chen, a fan favorite who competed in a previous Yokota Idol, also reached Saturday's second round with a rendition of the country tunes "Satin Sheets" and "Help Me Make It Through The Night."

Other "Idol" entries included Rebekah Wilcox, a civilian contractor for the CDC; Sara Mautner of the 374th Dental Squadron; Shantel Kuntz of the 374th Communications Squadron; and Lacey O'Hara, a songwriter and dependent.

In the end, however, Pickett delivered an inspired version of Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" to win over the crowd and secure the top spot.

"Now, that's how a contest is supposed to be run," Polanco praised.

Added Jenkins, "Nowadays, you make Whitney Houston sound bad."

Pickett, who once sang backup for Dionne Warwick, who happens to be her godmother, said she plans to make the most of her



T.D. FLACK/Stars and Stripes

Airman 1st Class Tia Pickett, a 20th Operational Weather Squadron forecaster, won the Yokota Idol 3 contest Saturday night.

studio time.

"No. 1 is the mission but No. 2 is the music," Pickett said. "Alicia Keys is not my idol but my aspiration. One day, look for me to be doing something like that."

Lorica, a cashier at the Yokota Enlisted Club, collected \$300 for claiming second, after her final-round performance of Bette Midler's "Wind Beneath My Wings."

Hayes, another first-time performer who chose Deborah Cox's "Nobody's Supposed to Be Here" in her bid for the title, earned \$200 as the third-place vocalist. But the staff sergeant from Yokota's 20th Operational Weather Squadron said she walked away with something more.

"It's a big eye-opener to the music industry for me," she said. "It shows how harsh and real it can be. Only one in a million make it, and now I understand why. It's subject to the judge's in-

terpretation of what they think is good."

"I have a greater respect now for those people who have made it. They've been subjected to it for years. I just got a small taste of it. I'm sure they heard a thousand 'nos' before they ever heard a 'yes.' But if the opportunity comes up again, I would definitely take it."

Jenny Brown became the first Yokota Idol in September 2003, while 17-year-old Cheyenne Ross claimed the crown last April.

"We had 10 really talented folks tonight and another very good turnout," said Yokota Enlisted Club assistant manager Aaron Feinberg, who organized the event. "We got a packed house again. The first night was good, and the second one got huge. Tonight, it was a nice, comfortable crowd. We're happy we didn't have to turn anyone away."

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Kubasaki counseling program off to a good start

Effort to help students stay free of drugs and alcohol is paying off

BY DAVID ALLEN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Margaret Zohni has completed her first year as Kubasaki High School's Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services counselor on a bit of a natural high.

The Marine Corps on Okinawa, which is responsible for her program, has called it a resounding success.

"This has been the fastest start-up we've seen in any of the ASACs," said John L. Velker, director of the Marine Corps Community Services' Substance Abuse Center on Okinawa. Velker, who has experience with similar programs in Europe and South Korea, said the Kubasaki program is exceeding expectations.

"Most programs have a 10 percent participation rate," he said during a recent interview in Zohni's office at the high school. "That's 10 percent of the student body being referred to the program and assisted in some way. Last year, 14.3 percent at Kubasaki were referred."

The high percentage, said Zohni, whose last counseling position was at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, was more a matter of pent-up demand for such a pro-



DAVID ALLEN/Stars and Stripes

Margaret Zohni exceeded expectations in her first year as Kubasaki High School's Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Services counselor.

gram than an indication the substance abuse situation at Kubasaki was worse than at any other school.

It also was due to the cooperation of the facilities at the high school and Lester Middle School, which the program also covers, and support from the Marine command, she said.

But Velker said it's also due to Zohni's efforts to reach out to the community instead of waiting for students to find their way to her office.

"Success for me," Zohni said, "is not so much the percentage of referrals but the fact that the number of teenagers with drug and alcohol issues who get into trouble has decreased."

She said she had no statistics to support her contention but shared stories of some of what she considers her biggest "successes."

"I actually had two students who wrote to me after their graduation," she said. "One is in the military and doing well and said the program really saved her life. The other recently PCS'd to the States and is in a new school and doing well. These were two substance abusers who got into real trouble with the law and really straightened up."

According to Zohni's statistics, 54 of the students referred to the program were enrolled in counseling. Of that number, 28 were alcohol abusers, 14 were in danger of abusing alcohol or other substances, four were drug abusers and eight were treated for issues related to being the children of alcoholic parents.

"Alcohol is the preferred drug," Zohni said. "It's very available on Okinawa. I asked some of the students where they'd go to get alcohol and they came up with a list of 10 places right off the bat."

Most were convenience stores outside the bases. "They said nobody carries them," Zohni said.

But why do some overseas military-family teens turn to substance abuse?

"They are under a great deal of stress, perhaps more than their stateside counterparts," Zohni said. "They have academic

challenges in school and then go home to face the challenges of coping with a parent being deployed. Plus, there's a sense of separation. In the military community there's a constant shifting of people coming and going, there's a constant change in friendships and a sense of separation from their family back in the States — aunts, uncles, grandparents."

"All of these things have a ripple effect," she said.

A major part of the program is prevention, Zohni said. "So, I work with them to have strong resilience to face down the pressure to engage in destructive behavior."

"One of the real tributes to the program is the fact that the kids are referring others to the program," she said. When a member of their circle starts to act out, a friend will tell them to check in with Zohni.

"They know I'm not the police," she said. "I can be friendly but still be very firm and they respect that. They are looking for guidance, direction. They are not my buddies."

Velker said Marine commanders on the island, including Lt. Gen. Robert E. Blackman Jr., commander of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, have noted how well the program has done in its first year.

Zohni, in turn, said she's happy to be working with them.

"The Marines are unique," she said. "It's like the straight forward, no-nonsense approach. They have a 'How can we do it?' attitude instead of trying to explain why something can't be done."

Email David Allen at: allen@pstripes.com

Commander praises U.S. occupation of Fallujah

Marine general says forces learned a lot from April mistakes

BY JIM KRANE

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — In April, 2,000 U.S. Marines fought for three weeks and failed to take Fallujah from its insurgent defenders. This time, war planners sent six times the troops, who fought their way across the rebel city in just six days — far more quickly than expected, the Marine general who designed the ground assault said Sunday.

Marine Maj. Gen. Richard Natonski said he and other commanders learned from April's failed three-week Marine assault on Fallujah, which was called off by the Bush administration after a worldwide outcry over civilian deaths. This time, the military sent over 10,000 troops and 20 types of aircraft. Troops also faked attacks before the assault to confuse enemy fighters.

Maybe we learned from April, Natonski said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We learned we can't do it piecemeal."

"When we go in, we go all the way through. We don't do the green light this time and we went all the way."

"Had we done in April what we did now, the results would've been the same."

Natonski spoke during a visit to the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade, the unit charged with isolating Fallujah under a security cordon.

More than 1,200 insurgents have been killed during the operation, he said.

Rebel attacks elsewhere — especially in the northern city of Mosul — have forced the Americans to shift troops away from Fallujah.

Exploiting the redeployment, insurgents stepped up attacks in areas outside Fallujah, including a bombing that killed two U.S. Marines on the outskirts of the former rebel bastion 40 miles west of Baghdad.

On Sunday, Marines and Army units were still battling gritty bands of defenders scattered in buildings and bunkers across the Sunni Muslim stronghold. Behind them, Iraqi troops were enmeshed in the painstaking task of clearing weapons and fighters from every room of Fallujah's estimated 50,000 buildings.

U.S. forces now occupy — but have yet to subdue — the entire city. It still could take several days of fighting to clear the final pockets of resistance, the military said.

On Sunday, U.S. soldiers from Task Force 2-2 of the 1st Infantry Division discovered an immense series of underground bunkers linked by tunnels that insurgents stocked with medical supplies.

A CNN correspondent embedded with the unit reported.

Marines reopened the bridge where the bodies of two American contractors killed by militants were strung up in March, signaling the earlier U.S. siege.

"This is a big event for us," Maj. Todd Des Groenewald, 41, of Auburn, Maine, said before Marines rolled back concertina wire and swept the bridge for booby traps.

Also, Marines in Fallujah found the mutilated body of what they believe was a Western woman. The body was lying in the street covered with a blood-soaked cloth.

A Marine officer speaking on condition of anonymity said he was "80 percent sure" it was a Western woman. Two foreign women



Marines of the 1st Division take up position as they advance in the western part of Fallujah, Iraq, on Sunday. The U.S. military's ground and air assault of Fallujah has gone quicker than expected, with the entire city occupied after six days of fighting, the Marine commander who planned the offensive said.

Military: 38 U.S. troops killed in Fallujah assault

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — At least 38 American troops and six Iraqi soldiers have been killed in the fighting in Fallujah, the military said Sunday.

U.S. officials estimated more than 1,200 insurgents were killed in the week-long fighting. The number of U.S. troops wounded is now 275, though more than 60 have returned to duty.

U.S. officials said American forces are now throughout the city, although it could take several more days of fighting

before the city is secured.

"The perception of Fallujah being a safe haven for terrorists, that perception and the reality of it will be completely wiped off before the conclusion of this operation," said Lt. Gen. John Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Sattler said that between 1,000-1,200 insurgents have been killed and the city has been "liberated," though U.S. forces are continuing to target small pockets of resistance.

were kidnapped last month — Margaret Hassan, 59, the director of CARE International in Iraq and Teresa Borcz Khalifa, 54, a Polish-born longtime resident of Iraq.

In Warsaw, the Polish Foreign Ministry said it was seeking more information.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society said another convoy would travel from Baghdad to Fallujah on Monday, carrying food and aid for about 2,000 families living in the area, director Fardous al-Ubaidi said.

A convoy of four such vehicles arrived in Fallujah on Saturday.

In central Buhair, 25 miles northeast of Baghdad, demonstrators marched to protest the Fallujah offensive and denounce Iraq's interim prime minister, Ayad Alawi.

In Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, militants attacked two police stations, killing at least six Iraqi National Guards and wounding three others, Iraqi officials said. One insurgent was killed and three others were wounded, they said. Iraqi security forces regained control of both stations, witnesses said.

About 300 Iraqi National Guards and a battalion of police from Baghdad patrolled the streets in a visible show of force after an

insurgent uprising believed to have been mounted in support of Fallujah's militants.

Back in Fallujah, contractors are supposed to swarm into Fallujah to cart away rubble, repair buildings and fix the city's utilities once the final insurgents are subdued, Natonski said.

The Iraqi government already has picked leaders for Fallujah, and thousands of Iraqi police and paramilitary forces have been recruited to impose order.

Natonski described the six days of ground war as a "flawless execution of the plan we drew up. We are actually ahead of schedule."

Several pre-assault tactics made the battle easier than expected, he said.

Insurgent defenders were weakened by bombing raids on command posts and safe houses. Air-dropped leaflets also may have demoralized some defenders and convinced some residents the city would be better off under government control, he said.

Natonski said these fake attacks forced the insurgents to build up forces in the south and east, perhaps diverting defenders from the north, where six battalions of Army and Marine troops finally pinned down the city Monday.

The deceptive maneuvers also drew fire from defenders' bunkers, which were exposed and relentlessly bombed before the ground assault.

"We desensitized the enemy to the formations they saw on the night we attacked," Natonski said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,179 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 903 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Friday. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The AP count is thirteen higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,041 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 794 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two Marines were killed Saturday in a bombing outside Fallujah.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Cpl. Jarrod L. Maher, 21, Inogene, Iowa; died Friday of a non-hostile gunshot wound at Abu Ghraib, Iraq; assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Sgt. Morgan W. Strader, 23, Crosville, Ind.; killed Friday in Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Nathan R. Anderson, 22, Howard, Ohio; killed Friday in Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Cpl. Brian P. Prenting, 24, Sheboygan, Wis.; killed Friday in Babil province; assigned to Marine Corps Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Chicago, Ill.

■ Marine Staff Sgt. Theodore S. Holder II, 27, Littleton, Colo.; killed Thursday in Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine 2nd Lt. James P. Blacksmith, 24, San Marino, Calif.; killed Thursday in Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Kyle W. Burns, 20, Laramie, Wyo.; killed Thursday in Anbar province; assigned to 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

'Marlboro Man' just wants another smoke

BY PATRICK J. McDONNELL
Los Angeles Times

FALLUJAH, Iraq — The "Marlboro Man" was angry. He has a war to fight, and he's running out of smokes.

"If you want to write something," he tells an intruding reporter, "tell Marlboro I'm down to four packs, and I'm here in Fallujah till who knows when. Maybe they can send some. And they can bring down the price a bit."

Those are the unfettered sentiments of Marine Lance Cpl. James Blake Miller, 20, a country boy from Kentucky who has been thrust unwittingly and somewhat unwillingly into the role of poster boy for a war on the other side of the world from his home on the farm.

"I just don't understand what all the fuss is about," Miller draws on Friday as he crouches — Marlboro firmly in place — inside an abandoned building with his platoon mates, preparing to fight insurgents

Newspaper photo brings unwanted attention to Marine in Fallujah

hired up in yet another mosque.

"I was just smokin' a cigarette, and someone takes my picture and it all blows up," Miller is the young man whose gritty, war-hardened portrait appeared Wednesday in the Los Angeles Times, shot by Luis Alvarez of the Los Angeles Times photographer embedded with Miller's unit, Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment.

In the full-frame photo, taken after more than 12 hours of nearly nonstop deadly combat, Miller's camouflage war paint is smudged. He sports a bloody nick on his nose. His helmet and chin strap frame a weary expression that seems to convey the timeless fatigue of battle. And there is the cigarette, of course, drooping from the right side of his mouth in a jaunty manner that Humphrey Bogart or John Wayne would have approved of. Wisp smoke drifts off to his left.

The image has quickly moved into the realm of the iconic.

More than 100 newspapers printed it, although it took the New York Post to sum it up in a front-page headline: "Marlboro Men Kick Butt in Fallujah." The fact that Miller's name was not included in the caption material only seemed to enhance its punch.

The Los Angeles Times and other publications have received scores of e-mails wanting to know about this mysterious figure. Many women, in particular, have inquired about how to contact him. The photo captures his weariness, yet his eyes hold the spirit of the hunter and the hunted," wrote one e-mailing admirer. "His gaze is warm but deadly. I want to send a letter."

The photo seems to have struck a chord, and top Marine brass are thrilled.

Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, dropped in on Company C on Friday to laud the Marlboro Man.

"That's a great picture," echoed Col. Craig Tucker, who heads the regimental

combat team that includes Miller's battalion. "We're having one blown up and sent over to the unit."

Miller, though, has been oddly absent from the hoopla. Sattler did not single him out during his visit. In fact, Miller only heard about it from the two Los Angeles Times staffers embedded with him. He seemed incredulous. "A picture?" he asked. "What's the fuss?"

The photo was taken on the afternoon after Company C's harrowing entry into Fallujah under intense enemy fire, in the cold and rain. Miller was on the roof of a home where he and his fellow First Platoon members had spent the day engaged in practically nonstop firefighting, fending off snipers and attackers who rushed the building. No one had slept in more than 24 hours. All were physically and emotionally drained.

"It was kind of crazy out there at first," Miller said. "No one really knew what to expect. They told us about it all the time, but no one knows for sure until you get here."

F.J. Hoffstetter of the Los Angeles Times also contributed to this story in Chicago.

**"I was just smokin'
a cigarette, and
someone takes
my picture and
it all blows up."**

Marine Lance Cpl.
James Blake Miller

Satellite systems popular with troops on bases in Iraq



JULIANA GITTLER/Stars and Stripes

Satellite dishes jam the tops of living trailers at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq. Except the large dish to the right, all are personal, commercial systems.

BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — Across the sea of aluminum, conex trailers at bases around Iraq, small orbs of communication are sprouting like foliage.

Units and groups of people are pitching in to buy satellite systems for either television or Internet service, to help bring them a little closer to home.

"It's working out pretty well," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dave Smith, a Florida National Guardsman serving with Company H, 171st Aviation Regiment at Anacanda.

He and a few colleagues bought an Internet satellite system from the unit they replaced and plan to sell it to the one that replaces them.

Up to 12 people can use it, although they try to vary usage so everyone isn't on at once.

"We try to be courteous and not download big files," Smith said.

Having the system allows them to communicate with family back home at odd hours, without a long walk to a Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent.

"Mostly it's just the convenience," Smith said. At the MWR Internet tent "you had to wait in line and you could only use it for 15 minutes." He now chats with home via instant messenger a few times a day.

It also allowed him to keep a close watch on local concerns at home.

"Some people are from Florida, so we're always watching the hurricane track," he said.

The service is great but it isn't cheap. The group pitched in a

With the Internet access, Sgt. Gene Bergfield can chat with his wife. She knows when he's going to be online.

**"It's made a big difference,"
he said. "It's saved me a
lot of money in phone bills."**

few hundred dollars apiece to buy the system and pay about \$70 more for the monthly subscription.

"It's well worth it to stay in touch with family," said Sgt. Cleveland Joyner, also with the 171st and a member of the Kentucky National Guard.

The officers have one and enlisted soldiers have another. Both groups were lucky to have the perfect person to help them with installation and maintenance.

Sgt. Gene Bergfield, also with the Florida National Guard, is an engineer for Lockheed and a self-proclaimed computer geek.

"It's kind of a little hobby of mine," he said. "I knew this was out there but I never thought about it till I got one."

With the Internet access, he can chat with his wife. She knows when he's going to be online.

"It's made a big difference," he said. "It's saved me a lot of money in phone bills."

More common than Internet is satellite TV, found in nearly every living area in the country.

Servicemembers can buy antennae and dishes for the American Forces Network or several other types of TV lineups.

At Anacanda, members of the 28th Public Affairs Detachment each pitched in about \$25 for an Orbit satellite system and one year of television service.

"You pay that for one month of cable in the States," said Staff Sgt. David Gillespie, noncommissioned officer in charge.

The group now watches ESPN, a variety of cable networks, the Disney Channel and about 100 more, although only a handful of them are in English.

They learned of the system from another unit and had an Iraqi contractor working with them to supply and install it.

"I was really hesitant [at first] because I didn't know what we would be getting into," Gillespie said. "We wondered if we would actually get any channels."

In the 27th Engineer Battalion living area at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, clusters of satellite dishes line the horizon above the trailers.

Master Sgt. Robert Scholtz, communications section chief, said there really aren't many rules governing satellites. For security reasons, troops are not allowed to use wireless technology anywhere in the theater.

At some bases, groups with Internet satellites have been told not to use Web cams in their trailers.

In either case, Scholtz said, he always reminds soldiers about operational security.

"OPSEC is always a big thing. We always tell them, 'Whatever you put out there, they're listening.'"

E-mail: Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstrips.osd.mil

Yokota Baptist Church

Pastor Warren Webster

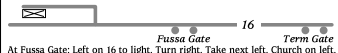
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Sunday School	1000	Mens Prayer Breakfast	1st Sat
Morning Service	1100	Ladies Meeting	1st Sat
Evening Service	1800		
Monday			
Faith Bible Institute	1830		
Tuesday			
Soul Winning & Visitation	1830		
Wednesday			
Evening Service & Prayer Mtg	1900		
Patch & Pee Web Clubs	1900		

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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

IN THE WORLD

Palestinians set January date for elections

BY JAMIE TARABAY

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian officials pushed forward with plans for election Yasser Arafat, setting Jan. 9 as the date for elections to replace their long-time leader, but for the first time since Arafat's death, internal Palestinian violence hit Gaza.

Guns firing rifles burst into a mourning tent set up for Yasser Arafat after his successor as head of the PLO, Mahmoud Abbas, arrived at nightfall Sunday. Two security guards were killed and six other people were wounded, officials said, but Abbas was unharmed. Security officers hustled him away.

Suleiman Mahdi, a Palestinian Authority driver, said Abbas was shaking hands with visitors when the gunfire erupted. He said security officers immediately surrounded Abbas. "They brought him to a safe place then he managed to get out of the area," he said.

Associated Press Television News pictures showed a group of about 20 men entering the mourning tent where Abbas, Gaza strongman Mohammed Dahlan and other key Palestinian leaders had come to mourn for Arafat.

The gunmen, clad in green,



Bodyguards take away Mahmoud Abbas, former Palestinian prime minister and the Yasser Arafat's successor as PLO chief, after gunfire erupted at the tent set up for mourners to gather in memory of Arafat in Gaza city on Sunday. Two security guards were killed.

shouted "Abbas and Dahlan are agents for the Americans."

Gunfire then popped through the tent. Abbas' bodyguards hustled him into a corner as frightened mourners scrambled over plastic chairs to flee.

It was not immediately known who the gunmen were, but Dahlan denied that the incident was an attempt to assassinate him or Abbas.

The presidential elections are a

key test for the Palestinians, who hope a smooth transition of power will encourage renewed international involvement in Mideast peacemaking. Arafat, who died Thursday, led the Palestinians for four decades and refused to appoint a successor.

Abbas is widely expected to run in the presidential elections, which must be held within 60 days of Arafat's death. In the meantime, Parliament Speaker

Raouf Fattouh has been sworn in as the caretaker president of the Palestinian Authority, which governs Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

One point of dispute emerged immediately: whether Arab residents in east Jerusalem should be able to take part. Some Israelis fear that allowing the city's 228,000 Arab residents to vote in a such a ballot would strengthen Palestinian claims to the city.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his Cabinet on Sunday that he won't rule out the possibility of allowing Palestinians living in east Jerusalem to vote, meeting participants said.

Several months ago, Israeli police raided voter registration stations in the area, preventing most residents from registering.

Speaking to the Cabinet, Sharon noted that east Jerusalem Arabs voted in 1996 Palestinian elections, government officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Other senior officials, including Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and Education Minister Limor Livnat, said they oppose allowing east Jerusalem Palestinians to vote. The Cabinet made no decision on the matter, and officials said the issue would be discussed further.

French official: Arafat did not die of poisoning

The Associated Press

PARIS — France's health minister said Sunday there was no reason to suspect Yasser Arafat was poisoned because French legal authorities would have intervened if medical tests had pointed to wrongdoing.

The 75-year-old Palestinian leader who had been suffering from poor health for years died Thursday in Paris, where he was taken Oct. 29 for treatment after tests showed he had a low count of blood platelets.

"Nothing leads us to think that there was poisoning," Philippe Douste-Blazy said in an interview.

The intense security surrounding Arafat's final days has aroused frustration in many corners of the Arab world.

Neither Palestinian officials nor Arafat's French medical team have announced a cause of death.

Volcano erupts

TOKYO — Mount Asama, one of Japan's largest and most active volcanoes, erupted late Sunday, rumbling to life with loud explosions. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The mid-sized burst, at 8:59 p.m., was likely to have sent ash and smoke into the air but it was too cloudy to confirm that, the Meteorological Agency said.

The agency rated the eruption at 3 on a scale of 5 in terms of the power of the explosion.

Police said they had received no reports of injuries from the eruption of the 8,474-foot peak, about 90 miles west of Tokyo.

The mountain has been rumbling intermittently since Sept. 1, when it had its biggest eruption in 21 years.

Japan's princess to wed

TOKYO — Japan's Princess Sayako, the only daughter of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, will announce her plans to marry a 39-year-old Tokyo metropolitan government official in the coming weeks, an official said Sunday.

Sayako, also known by her formal title Norinomiya, told her husband-to-be, Yoshiaki Kuroda, have already received the blessings of the emperor and empress, said public broadcaster NHK TV. The national Asahi newspaper carried a similar report.

Under the Imperial Household Law, Sayako will become a commoner once she is married. She has two brothers, Crown Prince Naruhito, 44, and Prince Akihihito, 38.

From The Associated Press

Mexico City stunned by 'little old lady killer'

BY LAURENCE ILIFF

The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY — Once relatively free of the sensational slayings that fill newspapers and lead newscasts in many big cities, the Mexican capital is now experiencing a growing number of serial or "copy-cat" killings aimed at elderly women with little to steal.

By media counts, the so-called *mataviejitas*, or "little old lady killers," has strangled or beaten to death some 18 seniors since 2003. Ten killings have come this year, including one in late October and another suspected case last week.

Most of the victims were 65 to 80 years old, lived alone and were strangled with a stocking or extension cord by someone who had gained their confidence, perhaps by posing as a nurse or social worker, according to police and media reports.

Although Mexico City has seen a steady rise in crimes such as car-jackings and kidnappings over the last decade, the number of homicides has remained relatively low, at an average of three daily.

Mexico City council member Irma Islas, who sits on the security commission, said the slayings targeted at one of the most respected seniors in Mexican society — grandmothers — show that criminal brutality has reached a new and dangerous level.

And she said the level of police

incompetence is equally frightening.

Investigators in the city Attorney General's Office, she charged, have failed to warn the public or develop a theory on why the killings continue despite two arrests that were billed as having solved the crimes.

The official motive for some of the case of a 60-year-old woman slain days previously had anything to do with the earlier killings.

"Two people are in prison," he said. There is a recent victim "that for our times is not so old, 60, it's a different case, it has nothing to do with the others. We consider the other cases solved, with two people, a man and a woman who were detained, identified by (surviving) victims, shown guilty through evidence and imprisoned."

Police first said they had caught the "little old lady killer" in April, after a woman pretending to be a nurse, Araceli Vazquez, allegedly admitted to robbing 10 elderly women. She denied the two killings attributed to her by police. So far, she has been convicted only of the robberies.

But after Vazquez's arrest, the killings continued.

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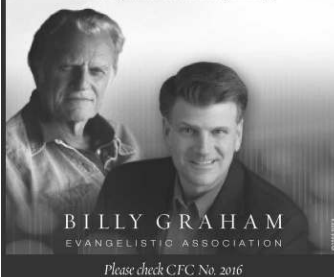
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PHOTO BY

Iran vows to suspend uranium enrichment

By GEORGE JAHN
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran has given the United Nations a written promise to fully suspend uranium enrichment, diplomats said on Sunday, in an apparent bid to dispel suspicions that Tehran wants to build a nuclear bomb.

The move also would appear to blunt an American drive to take Iran before the United Nations for the imposition of sanctions.

By issuing the written commitment to the United Nations nuclear watchdog agency — the International Atomic Energy Agency — Iran dropped demands for modification of a tentative deal worked out Nov. 7 with European negotiators, agreeing instead to continue a freeze on enrichment and to suspend related activities, diplomats told The Associated Press.

Washington has argued that Iran's enrichment activities are part of a nuclear arms program. Uranium enrichment is a precursor process to building nuclear bombs.

"Basically it's a full suspension," said

Move could dispel West's bomb suspicions

one of the diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity. But, the diplomat added, Iran had not yet fulfilled a key part of the deal — formally informing the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency of its decision and asking for its inspectors to monitor compliance with its commitment.

As negotiators for France, Germany and Britain struggled with Iran to bridge differences over the weekend, the IAEA delayed a report on Iran's nuclear activities scheduled for limited circulation to diplomats accredited to the agency.

A diplomat familiar with the IAEA said the delay was meant to give the two sides a chance to resolve the dispute and allow agency head Mohamed ElBaradei to include an Iranian commitment to suspend its uranium enrichment and related activities in his report.

The IAEA survey on nearly two decades of clandestine activities that the United States insists is a secret weapons program is being prepared for review by the agency's 35-nation board of governors when they meet Nov. 25.

Based on that report, they will decide on actions that include possible referral of Iran to the U.N. Security Council, which, in turn, could call for sanctions.

After ending talks in Paris with Iranian envoys last weekend, European diplomats said there was tentative agreement by Tehran to suspend uranium enrichment and all related activities.

The suspension would be in effect for at least as long as it took for the two sides to negotiate a deal on European technical and financial aid, including help in the development of Iranian nuclear energy for power generation.

But on Friday the diplomats told The Associated Press that Iranian officials had presented British, French and German envoys in Tehran with a version of the agreement that was unacceptable to the three European powers — the main negotiators of the deal — and the European Union as a whole.

The key dispute was over the conversion of uranium into gas, which when spun in

centrifuges can be enriched to lower levels for producing electricity or processed into high-level, weapons grade uranium, the diplomats said on condition of anonymity.

The diplomats — all of them briefed on the dispute and based in Europe — said that as of Friday Iran had insisted that the deal allowed it to process uranium into a precursor of uranium hexafluoride, the gas introduced into centrifuges for enrichment.

The diplomats said that was not allowed under the tentative deal reached in Paris. Iran suspended uranium enrichment last year but has repeatedly refused to stop other related activities such as reprocessing uranium or building centrifuges, insisting its program is intended purely for the production of fuel for nuclear power generation.

A full suspension would be significant because it would commit Iran not only to continue its voluntary freeze on enriching uranium but also to stop the contentious activities linked to it.

The deal still falls short of U.S. calls for indefinite suspension of Iran's enrichment program.

Ivory Coast leader holed up as African leaders back sanctions

By SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM
The Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Ivory Coast's president, blamed by France for violence against foreigners and on guard against feared attacks by Paris to overthrow him, hunkered up in his lagoon-side mansion Sunday and skipped an African summit in Geneva on ending his country's crisis.

For weeks the jammed airport to flee the Western African country despite the return of calm.

At the Nigeria summit, African leaders supported an arms embargo and other U.N. sanctions on the Ivory Coast government and rebels.

Earlier this month, the U.N. Security Council supported sanctions if the government and rebels did not return to a peace process by the beginning of December.

President Laurent Gbagbo also promoted the hard-line commander whose forces launched a deadly airstrike on French peacekeepers that set off the confrontation, making Col. Maj. Philippe Mangou head of the country's armed forces in a move likely to anger France and much of Gbagbo's own army.

As a French-led evacuation builds to one of Africa's largest exodus of foreigners, French President Jacques Chirac denounced

Gbagbo's "questionable regime" and said France, Ivory Coast's former colonial ruler, would not tolerate much more.

"We do not want to allow a system to develop that would lead only to anarchy or a regime of a fascist nature," Chirac told a audience in the southern French city of Marseille.

French and Ivorian troops manned Abidjan's international airport, where scores of French families and other foreigners milled with children and luggage awaiting flights out. A handful of heavily armed U.S. Marines stood ready to assist French troops.

The foreigners sprawled on camp beds set up in the depart-

ment lounge, their cats and dogs lined up in pet cages on the tarmac just outside — all waiting for loading onto an Air France jumbo jet for the latest in five days of evacuation flights.

Since Thursday, France and other countries have flown out more than 4,000 expatriates — including Americans.

Invited to a heads-of-state summit called by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, Gbagbo announced through a spokesman he would send the head of parliament instead.

"The country is in a crisis. He prefers to be here, to be ready for any eventuality," spokesman De-

sire Tagro told The Associated Press, referring to Gbagbo.

National Assembly president Mamadou Koulibaly, along with the presidents of Senegal, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Togo and Gabon and top African Union and U.N. envoys, met in the presidential wing of Abuja's airport. They called for international action to pressure the Ivory Coast government and rebels to restore peace.

"This should be immediately," Obasanjo said.

France's heavy criticism, and African efforts to resolve the crisis, came after a five-day spate of anti-foreigner rampages in the world's top cocoa producer, a nation that once was stable and prosperous, and the pride of France's former West African empire.

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IN THE STATES

Cheney's breathing problems due to cold

By JENNIFER LOVEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney, back home after a brief hospital visit, has nothing more than a bad cold and his heart is fine, his wife and an adviser said Sunday.

Also doing well is former President Clinton, who had heart surgery in September, a former aide said.

Cheney, who has had four heart attacks, had three hours of

tests Saturday after experiencing shortness of breath.

They showed no problems with his heart — “none whatsoever,” said Mary Malin, a former top White House aide to the 63-year-old vice president.

Cheney's most recent heart attack was in November 2000, just before he assumed the vice presidency.

He had a pacemaker implanted in his chest in June 2001.

Malin, who has acted as Cheney's spokeswoman this weekend, said he was just following the orders of his “very cautious” doctors who recommended that he have tests at the hospital. Cheney returned Thursday night from a pheasant hunting trip in South Dakota with a cold that left him short of breath.

She said on NBC's “Meet the Press” that Cheney should serve as “an inspiration to people with heart disease that you can lead such a productive and constructive life.”

She noted the vice president's



Vice President Dick Cheney leaves George Washington University Hospital in Washington on Saturday. Cheney, who has a history of heart trouble, went to the hospital after experiencing shortness of breath.

heavy travel schedule during the presidential campaign, saying Cheney attended more than 280 events.

“It was a remarkable schedule,” the long and the short is, the

vice president had a cold like everybody else did on his plane.”

Lynne Cheney, the vice president's wife, said the entire family has had a bad cough and cold.

On Sunday, the vice president was resting, drinking lots of flu-

ids and generally taking it easy — “doing everything you're supposed to do when you have a cold” — but planned to show up for work on Monday, she told CNN's “Late Edition.”

On another subject, she said her husband's off-repeated-state matters that he does not plan to make his own run for the White House in 2008 was “ironclad, concrete.”

President Bush, at services at St. John's Church across the street from the White House, heard the minister offer prayers for Cheney.

As for the 58-year-old Clinton, he has lost some weight since quadruple bypass surgery Sept. 6 and gets tired at night, said Democratic strategist and former top aide James Carville.

But that is to be expected and he is pronounced Clinton “ready to go — he's rolling,” said Carville, who appeared on NBC with Malin, his wife.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Nov. 15)	103.00
South Korean won (Nov. 15)	181.20
Euro (Nov. 15)	\$1.268
British pound (Nov. 15)	\$1.50
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.858
Canada (Dollar)	1.002
Denmark (Krone)	5.7485
Egypt (Pound)	2.285
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2982
Hungary (Forint)	1.772
Israel (Shekel)	4.85
Japan (Yen)	105.35
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.2946
Norway (Krone)	6.794
Philippines (Peso)	56.13
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.7489
Singapore (Dollar)	1.651
South Korea (Won)	1,104.60
Switzerland (Franc)	1.703
Thailand (Baht)	46.67
Turkish Lira	1,483.750

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance.)
 *Includes South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
 †Local currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany) are provided for reference only. Banking facilities. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates quoted for reference only. Buying currency. All figures are foreign dollars-to-dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc close	
Gold	\$437.90
Silver	\$7.615

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.50
3-month bill	2.07
30-year bond	4.50

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Death-row sentencing hits lowest level in decades

By LAURA MECKLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of people sentenced to death reached a 30-year low in 2003, when the death row population fell for the third year in a row, the government reported Sunday.

Some 144 inmates in 25 states were given the death penalty last year, 24 fewer than in 2002 and less than half the average of 297 between 1994 and 2000, according to the Justice Department.

Death penalty opponents say the report shows how wary the public is of executions, heightened by concerns about whether the punishment is administered fairly and publicity about those wrongly convicted. Illinois eliminated its death row in 2003 after several inmates were found to be innocent.

“What we're seeing is hesitation on the

death penalty, skepticism, reluctance,” said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center. “I do think there is some concern about the death penalty and it's reflected in death sentences from juries.”

Opponents also point to other possible reasons, including continuing fallout from Supreme Court decisions requiring that juries be told that life in prison without parole is an alternative to death.

Dieter said 47 states now offer a life-without-parole sentence as an option for at least some convictions, compared with 30 in 1993.

Supporters doubt the decline signifies a major shift in public opinion about the death penalty, which is in effect in 38 states and the federal justice system.

“I don't think the numbers mean a lot quite frankly,” said Dianne Clements, president of the victims advocacy group Justice For All. “I

don't think it means a change in death penalty attitudes. I think it means the numbers change.”

At the end of last year, 3,374 prisoners awaiting execution, 188 fewer than in 2002, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Illinois accounted for 84 percent of the decline, the result of then-Gov. George Ryan's decision to commute the death sentences of 167 inmates to life in prison and to pardon four others.

Nationally, 267 people were removed from death row last year. That was the largest drop since 1976, when the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty, according to the report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Some 65 people, all men, were executed last year. Texas again was the leader, with 24, followed by Oklahoma with 14 and North Carolina with 7. No other state had more than three.

All but one of those men were killed by lethal injection. The other was electrocuted.

Events and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Tips for being good leader

The Associated Press

If you're a leader, how do you do your employees think you could become a better communicator?

Many want to feel that the boss stands up for them when necessary, according to a poll of 571 workers. The issue was cited by 28 percent.

“The best employees want someone who will be their advocate,” said Diane Domyer, executive director of Menlo Park, Calif.-based OfficeTeam, a staffing service for administrators.

Another 24 percent said they believe successful communicators limit office politics, and

more than fifth (20 percent) said the boss should talk less and listen more.

Some suggestions for better communication:

■ Squelch the rumor mill. If your staff doesn't hear the news from you, they're nearly sure to get it elsewhere, Domyer said.

■ Listen during meetings. How do your colleagues speak to and about your staff? If someone is questioned or criticized unfairly, come to the defense.

■ Inquire. Impromptu discussions with employees can alert you to political issues in the office, and potentially defuse them before they become a problem.

2004

Holiday Shopping Guide

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STARS AND STRIPES

Your Hometown Newspaper

The rise and fall of a powerful AF broker

Trial records, experts give clues to former weapons buyer's descent from grace

By RENAE MERLE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the macho world of the Pentagon, Darleen Druyman was rare: a woman who had scaled the heights of power, controlled billions of dollars in weapons programs and could punish or reward global corporations and the men who ran them.

Once the most feared woman in the world of military contracting, Druyman, 57, helped direct the Air Force's \$30 billion procurement budget — nearly three times the size of the Army's.

She was at the peak of her power as a top Air Force weapons buyer in 1999 when she scolded leaders of Lockheed Martin Corp., the world's largest defense contractor, for some of its work on satellites and rockets. Her tone was blunt: One program had "pitiful" software and a company proposal had a "crappy design." The incident contributed to the early retirement of one Lockheed executive and the company rushed to address Druyman's concerns, according to several people familiar with the situation.

But now it is Druyman who has fallen from grace. In April, she pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge for negotiating for a job with Boeing Co. while still supervising the company's work for the Air Force. Last month she stunned military and industry leaders by admitting that she had been giving preferential treatment for years before taking a job with the company.

The Pentagon announced last week that because Druyman's illegal behavior it has begun investigating.

After fostering a reputation as a tough adversary of defense contractors, Druyman felt indebted to Boeing, which hired her daughter and son-in-law.

Druyman was sentenced to nine months in prison, a portrait of Druyman has been removed from court papers and interviews with her associates of a woman who acquired power beyond her status at the Air Force then walked over subordinates, humbled industry executives and sought superior advantage at significant expense.

Druyman is an imposing figure with a sharp — and sometimes vulgar — tongue,



LINDA LABONTE BRITT/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Capt. Anh Le, center, force protection system program officer at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., shows a computer system to Darleen Druyman, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition and management, in September 2002. Druyman took a job at Boeing two months later, a position she negotiated while still at the Pentagon.

who was right at home in the male-dominated Pentagon world. Her renown as a tough government negotiator and stickler for the rules encouraged her superiors to rely on her judgment, according to industry insiders. For nearly 40 percent of her time at the Pentagon she had no supervisor at all. Her rise to power coincided with a government-wide push to build closer relationships with contractors as partners.

"I was surprised that someone who was around (during the Ill Wind investigation) would be in essence doing the same things that Ill Wind was all about," said Joseph Aronica, the lead prosecutor in that investigation — now a lawyer with Duane Morris LLP. "I guess these things in a way are cyclical. She may have thought no one was looking any more."

Druyman did not respond to letters and could not be reached by telephone to comment on this article. Her lawyer, through his secretary, declined to comment.

Druyman began her career in government work in 1970 when she landed a job as an Air Force contractor negotiator at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center in Georgia. For the next 20 years, she bounced between the Air Force, the Office of Management and Budget and NASA before being named the Air Force's deputy acquisition chief, a position she would hold until her retirement in November 2002.

This week lowered the terror alert for the financial sector in New York, Washington and northern New Jersey that was in place for three months.

But authorities still caution the possibility of an attack is just as high as it was a month ago.

"The whole notion taking a deep breath and saying, 'Wow, we got past this and now we are OK for a while' is a ... very danger-

ous reinvented herself as a reformer, developing "Lightning Bolt" initiatives that aimed to make Air Force weapons procurement more efficient and stressed the importance of a company's past performance in awarding new contracts. The Air Force said the program saved \$20 billion.

The fortunes of defense contractors rested on Druyman's decisions on competitors, her policy decisions and her awards of bonuses. In 1999, she emerged as the Pentagon's top advocate of the F/A-22, a boon to Lockheed's fighter jet's manufacturer. In 2001, Druyman eliminated Raytheon Co. from a \$2.5 billion competition to build the small-diameter bomb, surprising industry handcarriers and realigning the competitive landscape.

An official at Druyman's level would not normally decide the outcome of as many competitions as she did or get involved in the nitty-gritty of contract negotiations, according to people in the industry. Those tasks were left to underlings who made the decisions themselves or offered their recommendations. "Once in a blue moon there will be a mess where you can't resolve an issue and the issue will float up the chain of command," said John Douglas, the former assistant Navy secretary for research, development and acquisition.

The power creep did not escape the notice of her superiors. In one or two cases, "I was surprised she was getting involved, but they were large (contracts) and ... she was a hands-on kind of person," said Jacques Gansler, the Pentagon's acquisition chief from 1997 to 2001. "People above and around her in the Air Force should have been overseeing her."

Gradually, Druyman's allegiances began

to shift as her personal and professional lives became entangled. When her daughter's fiancé, Michael McKee, was looking for a job in 2000, she contacted a longtime Boeing associate, Michael Sears, the company's chief financial officer for help, according to court records. McKee was hired for a position in St. Louis. Druyman also helped her daughter, Heather, land a job at Boeing two months later — a position created for her, the records show.

After years fostering a reputation as the defense contractors' toughest adversary, Druyman felt indebted to Boeing. She then made a series of decisions that were rooted in her sense of gratitude, she told the court.

In 2000, she agreed to increase the size of a Boeing contract for C-17 transport planes by \$412 million. Two years later, she restructured the company's program to modernize 18 NATO planes used as airborne command posts, and approved a \$100 million payment.

In 2001, Druyman picked Boeing over Lockheed to upgrade the avionics on C-130 transport planes. The decision stunned industry analysts because Lockheed had built the planes and was considered the most probable choice to modernize them. Industry analysts pointed to the competition as proof that Boeing's strategy to apply commercial technology to the military sector was working and that Lockheed was failing to capture the Air Force's imagination.

In 2002, Druyman accepted a position at Boeing as a vice president, but had barely moved in when she became the center of controversy again.

In her final months at the Pentagon, Druyman was the chief negotiator of a \$20 billion program to lease, then purchase Boeing 767s converted into refueling tankers. The proposal had attracted the attention of the Senate Commerce Committee chair, Joe Lieberman, who called the proposal a welfare program for Boeing.

Critics said it was more than a coincidence that Druyman, the chief Pentagon negotiator, would take a \$250,000-a-year job with Boeing.

The firm found that employment talks had occurred while Druyman was overseeing Boeing contracts — a violation of federal law. Druyman was fired and pleaded guilty, sparing prosecution of her daughter, who was named as an undicted co-conspirator. Sears, who negotiated Druyman's employment, is scheduled to plead guilty on Monday.

Druyman would still not reveal the entire truth for several months. Only after falling two polygraph tests. After initially admitting only to a technical violation — holding improper employment discussions — she acknowledged years of conflict of interest and admitted she agreed to a higher price on the tanker deal as a "parting gift" to the firm, she told the court.

It is difficult to the truth of matters can sometimes be difficult," Druyman's lawyer, John Dowd, told the judge before she was sentenced. "There is no denying (Darleen) made a serious mistake and there is no denying the bad calculations coming to grips with certain matters."

Terror experts say U.S. still a target of al-Qaida during holidays

By KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government counterterrorism experts say the threat of an attack by al-Qaida remains a significant concern, perhaps even this year, although the nation safely passed the benchmark of the Nov. 2 election.

The Homeland Security Department

this week lowered the terror alert for the financial sector in New York, Washington and northern New Jersey that was in place for three months.

But authorities still caution the possibility of an attack is just as high as it was a month ago.

"The whole notion taking a deep breath and saying, 'Wow, we got past this and now we are OK for a while' is a ... very danger-

ous train of thought," Homeland Security Deputy Secretary James Loy told reporters in a conference call Wednesday.

Since April, U.S. authorities have warned of an increased risk of attack to disrupt democracy, often pointing to the now-passed elections.

But they remain concerned about the upcoming holidays, the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration and beyond. Loy said the

time period does not have a termination date.

He said a relaxed posture for financial institutions — from code orange, or heightened, to code yellow, or elevated — came because of government and private security officials had run drills, improved security and taken other measures to "harden" the potential targets. The passing of the election, too, was on the minds of authorities.

Rapper O.D.B. found dead in studio at 35

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The rap artist O.D.B., whose utterly unique rhymes, wild lifestyle and incessant legal troubles made him one of the most vivid characters in hip-hop, collapsed and died inside a recording studio Saturday. He was 35.

O.D.B. had complained of chest pains before collapsing at the Manhattan studio, and was dead by the time paramedics arrived, said Gabe Tesori, a spokesman for O.D.B.'s record label, Roc-A-Fella.

The cause of death was not immediately clear, but O.D.B. had recently finished a prison sentence for drug possession and escaping a rehab clinic. He would have turned 36 on Monday.



Jones

O.D.B. — also known as Ol' Dirty Bastard, Dirt McGirt, Big Baby Jesus or his legal name of Russell Jones — was a founding member of the seminal rap group the Wu-Tang Clan in the early 1990s. With his unorthodox delivery — alternately slurred, hyper and nonsensical — O.D.B. stood out even in the nine-man Clan, which featured such future stars as Method Man, RZA and Ghostface Killah.

The Wu-Tang blueprint was for each member to pursue solo projects, and O.D.B.'s were among the best. He released hit singles such as "Shimmy Shimmy Ya" and "Got Your Money," and appeared on remixes with artists such as Mariah Carey.

"There's nobody like him in the game," RZA said in an April interview, when asked if O.D.B. could resume his career after prison. "He's got a lot of problems he's got to iron out, of course, but as far as a one-of-a-kind person, a one-of-a-kind artist, he's one of a generation, one of a lifetime. He's a very rare commodity."

But as his fame increased, so



Rap artist O.D.B. of the Wu-Tang Clan, whose legal name is Russell Jones, takes the stage unannounced on Feb. 25, 1998, at the Grammy Awards in New York. The rapper collapsed and died inside his studio on Saturday, according to his record label.

did his erratic behavior, and fans came to expect the unexpected from O.D.B.

When MTV News followed him

around at the height of his popularity, he took the camera crew and several of his kids to the welfare office — in a limousine — to

get an allotment of food stamps.

And he received them.

Over the years, he was wounded in shootings and arrested on a veritable laundry list of charges, including menacing security officers, illegally possessing body armor, driving with a suspended license, shoplifting and threatening a former girlfriend.

In 2000, after escaping a court-ordered stint in a California rehabilitation center, authorities searched for him for a month. He was finally arrested in Philadelphia — three days after performing in a New York City concert with his Wu-Tang clique.

He was sentenced in 2001 to two to four years in prison for drug possession, plus two concurrent years for escaping from the clinic.

He was released in 2003 and immediately signed with Roc-A-Fella.

"Russell inspired all of us with his spirit, wit, and tremendous heart," Roc-A-Fella founder Damon Dash said in a statement.

"The world has lost a great talent, but we mourn the loss of our friend."



Hunting guide Chris Griffin, right, pretends to be a victim of the legendary "Hogzilla" during the annual town festival on Saturday in Alapaha, Ga., while children and adults ride on the float.

Town honors 'Hogzilla' with annual festival

BY ELLIOTT MINOR

The Associated Press

ALAPAHA, Ga. — Residents of this small farming town gathered Saturday to celebrate "Hogzilla," a 12-foot-long wild pig that was supposedly shot by a hunting guide last summer and quickly grew into a worldwide legend.

The festival comes five months after the 1,000-pound hog was killed when it wandered out of swamps along the nearby Alapaha River, a haven for swine that escape pig farms and start living off the land.

The prodigious porker was remembered with a hog-calling contest and a greased-pig chase, as well as a float featuring a life-size replica of Hogzilla.

"Everybody is happy, but smiling,

excited. We're going hog wild," said Becky Davis, an organizer of an annual community gala that was held this year with a Hogzilla theme.

The hairy heavyweight supposedly measured 12 feet with 9-inch tusks, said Ken Holyoak, owner of the hunting plantation where the hog was killed near Alapaha, about 180 miles southeast of Atlanta.

But few have actually seen Hogzilla. Holyoak's only proof is a photo showing the guide with the beast dangling from a rope.

Holyoak says Hogzilla was too old to butcher and too big to mount, so he buried the carcass in a grave marked by a white cross.

Festival organizers were initially skeptical of adopting a theme that confirmed Hogzilla's exist-

ence, so they chose to focus on the Hogzilla legend.

Holyoak said he has been interviewed by 200 newspapers and at least 24 television stations, as well as numerous radio broadcasts.

"It's been on the radio from Canada to Russia," he said. "I didn't know people would go that crazy over a hog."

The legend has propelled Chris Griffin, the guide who supposedly shot Hogzilla in June, from relative obscurity to celebrity status.

"They ask for my autograph," he said. "I've gotten used to it, but before it kind of freaked me out. I wasn't used to that much attention."

Asked if there could be more giant hogs in the swamps — perhaps a Hogzilla heir — Holyoak replied, "If there's one, there's a possibility of more."

Rod Stewart ordered to pay for nixed tour

BY LINDA DEUTSCH

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Singer Rod Stewart must repay the \$780,000 he accepted as a deposit for a Latin American concert tour that was canceled, a jury ruled Friday.

The jury also assessed damages of \$1.6 million against Stewart's lawyers and agents at the ICM talent agency for their roles in negotiating a contract for the tour.

"The message that is sent I hope is that big players in the media cannot treat little players with arrogance and greed and get away with it," said Dennis Holahan, a lawyer who represented

music tour operators from Peru, Argentina and Oklahoma.

The contract called for Stewart, 59, to be paid \$2.1 million in advance for nine concerts in Central and South America that would start in February 2002. The document was not signed by promoter Howard Pollack, although he e-mailed he would do so.

About \$780,000 of the advance was paid before Stewart's associates canceled the tour in mid-January 2002; the money was not returned. Pollack and two other promoters sued.

"These men and their companies were ruined by this," Holahan said. "This is going to restore their credibility and personal reputations."

Lawyer sues 'Law & Order'

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A New York City lawyer sued the producers of the television show "Law & Order" for \$15 million Friday, claiming that they defamed him by portraying him as a crooked attorney in one of the show's episodes.

Ravi Batra, who has Manhattan offices but is well-known in Brooklyn legal and political circles, said the "ripped from the headlines" episode titled "Floater" maliciously inflicted emotional, economic and professional injury on him.

The episode initially focuses on the husband of a woman whose decomposed body is found floating in the Hudson River. Detectives investigate the husband's

alibi and find a corruption scandal at the courthouse where the wife worked. The scandal includes her divorce lawyer and a judge who has heard a suspiciously large number of the lawyer's cases.

Investigations by the Brooklyn district attorney's office have resulted in arrests for the alleged fixing of matrimonial cases by judges and lawyers, and for the alleged sale of consultancies and appointments to judgeships.

Batra is a former law firm associate of Assemblyman Clarence Norman, chairman of the Brooklyn Democratic Party. Norman was indicted in November 2003 along with another party official on charges that they pressured judges to hire favored consultants.

FACES

Britain's hall of fame inducts musicians

Robbie Williams, Michael Jackson, Queen, the Rolling Stones and Cliff Richard have been inducted into Britain's first Music Hall of Fame chosen by the public as the best music acts of the past five decades.

The honorees were selected by a public vote by Channel 4 television. Also inducted Thursday were honorary members Madonna, Bob Marley, Elvis Presley, U2 and The Beatles. So far, there's no building.

Acts needed only to have been influential or successful in Britain to qualify.

Artists to perform for Darfur aid

Musicians including Chrissie Hynde, Mick Hucknall and Scottish band Franz Ferdinand will perform at a concert to benefit the people of Sudan's war-torn Darfur province.

The Refugee Voices for Darfur concert at Royal Albert Hall on Dec. 8 will feature singers, accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, performing the songs of Cole Porter, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said Tuesday.

Soprano Barbara Hendricks, disco diva Jocelyn Brown, singer Andrew Coleman and British R&B newcomer Lemar also will perform.

Franz Ferdinand, one of Britain's biggest bands, will play by video link from Mexico City.

Proceeds will go to help refugees who have fled their homes in Darfur during 21 months of violence. International officials say tens of thousands of people have been killed and some 1.8 million people forced from their homes.

Bill Maher sued by former girlfriend

Bill Maher is being sued by a woman who claims he stalk her at a party and watched on promises to marry her and buy her a house in Beverly Hills.

Nancy "Coco" Johnson, a former model and flight attendant, is seeking \$9 million and other unspecified damages, according to the action filed Wednesday in Los Angeles Superior Court. It accuses the political comic of fraud, battery and assault.

Maher's lawyer said Friday he expects the lawsuit to be thrown out of court.

Johnson claims she fell in love with the HBO "Real Time" host during a 17-month relationship that began in January 2003.

According to the lawsuit, Maher convinced Johnson to quit her career and in return promised the two would marry and have children, that he would reimburse her for clothing and other expenses necessary for her to accompany him as a "power couple," and that he would support her for the rest of her life.

Diaz and Timberlake sued for assault

Two photographers sued Cameron Diaz and her boyfriend, Justin Timberlake, for assault and battery, claiming the celebrity couple taunted and attacked them outside a fancy Los Angeles hotel.

Saul Lazo and Jose Gonzalez said the "Charlie's Angels" star and the pop singer threatened them as they tried to photograph the couple near the famed Chateau Marmont on Nov. 6.

The lawsuit filed Friday said the photographers, on assignment for a photo agency, did nothing to harass the couple and stood more than 10 feet from them until Diaz ran at Lazo, hit him in the neck and tripped him, snatching his camera.

A representative for the couple said he could not immediately comment on the suit, but said in a previous statement they were "ambushed by two men" on a dark street and acted only in self-defense.

Diaz kept Lazo's camera, later turning it in to police.

According to the suit, she also tried to grab the other camera after pushing Gonzalez, who ran away along with Lazo as Timberlake called after them. "Come and fight, you chickens."

The photographers claim they suffered emotional distress and physical harm and request unspecified general, special and punitive damages, as well as attorney's fees.



LATVAP

"As I enter into adulthood," says actress Claire Danes, "I'm that much more grateful for my achievements and that much more regretful of my failures." The former star of "My So-Called Life" has grown up and is now appearing on-screen opposite Billy Crudup in "Stage Beauty."

A decade later, the teen star of 'My So-Called Life,' and 'Romeo + Juliet' brings refined maturity to newest film

BY RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
Los Angeles Times

This is Claire Danes' first memory of acting: "I was 2. I was in pre-nursery school and it was nap-time," she said. She's speaking with conviction, conjuring up an image of her toddler self wanting to impress her teacher — and so pretended to sleep.

"I remembered observing my mother twitching in her sleep, so I was doing that, very subtly of course. I remember thinking, 'Wow, that's good, Claire. That's nuanced. She's never going to know I'm awake!'" Even at 2, Danes showed an affinity for the intimate acting moment and a preternatural self-awareness, both of which are apparent 23 years later, as she sits in a hotel lobby, discussing her latest film, "Stage Beauty."

A star of such films as "Romeo + Juliet" and "The Hours," Danes is less ethereal in person — more of a sassy dancer type, although her slightly hunched shoulders make it clear that's not her profession. She is wearing snug jeans and a diaphanous purple print blouse. She sits in a chair, her long hands clasped together in her lap like a schoolgirl.

Her self-consciousness, now muted through a scrim of elegance and experience, is at odds with the vulnerable unself-consciousness of her best screen performances.

Danes is at her most lush and translucent in "Stage Beauty," a theatrical confection about — what else? — life in the theater. It's one of those putative historical dramas that is actually a very modern discussion of sexuality and gender, told in an "All About Eve"-type narrative.

Set in 17th-century England when only men were legally allowed to be actors, it tells the tale of Ned Kynaston (Billy Crudup), the greatest star of the day, famed for playing such female heroines as Shakespeare's Juliet and Desdemona. He is secretly loved by his dresser, Maria, (Danes) who nonetheless plays him and becomes his professional rival when the king declares that all female stage parts must henceforth be played by women.

Danes sees Maria sympathetically, as a girl stumbling into her birthright. "I related to her zeal and her desire to perform, which is so sincere and touching," the actress says. "I liked that she was both naive and ambitious. Some people have perceived her as cunning and calculating and I really don't."

"She had an insatiable yearning to act, and to love this man and she couldn't help herself. I don't think she intend-

ed to create the kind of rupture she ultimately did."

"Stage Beauty" is a film about soul acceptance — the kind of love that transcends sexuality and gender, bad behavior and identity crises. Crudup has the flashier part. He plays the man playing the woman in the big red dress, the one who plunges into degradation. Yet it's up to Danes to anchor the romance, to persevere with unwavering conviction. She sees beyond whatever disguise he might be adopting at the moment and forgives.

Coincidentally, the film chronicling the backstage drama of Elizabethan theater was itself awash in backstage drama.

Simply put, Danes was dating Australian rocker Ben Lee, while her co-star, Crudup, was involved in a long-term romance with fellow thespian Mary-Louise Parker, who was pregnant with their first child.

More months before that child was born, Crudup broke off with Parker and became romantically linked with Danes.

The tabloids went into prurient ecstasy, and the insinuations about the dervish, earnest ingenue — best loved for her role as teenager Angela Chase in the cult TV series "My So-Called Life" — weren't kind.

Danes refuses to discuss the subject. Her halting pattern of speech grinds to an uncomfortable full stop. Apparently, soul acceptance in real life is not an appropriate topic for public consumption.

Danes said a scene in "Stage Beauty," in which her character wrestles with self-doubt, "resonated very strongly for me. There were all these overlaps. I realized how much my identity relies on other people's belief that I am decent as an actress." She shrugs. "Or something like that."

That struggle has always been present, something that Danes used to build upon, whether she was 10 years old at the Lee Strasberg studio, or 15, and carrying the one-hour drama "My So-Called Life" on her frail shoulders.

She ultimately quit movies for three years to attend Yale, in part to figure out whether acting was merely a habit or an avocation. She quit Yale to go back to film.

"I was yearning for it," she said. "No longer the precocious child star — 'I'm getting old, I'm 25,' she says only half-mockingly. "I'm a big, fat adult now" — all the acting that used to be pure instinct has become more refined, more part of a process.

"As I enter into adulthood, I'm that much more grateful for my achievements and that much more regretful of my failures. It does have to do with accepting responsibility. It's like I've left the Garden of Eden and am now looking for a fig leaf."



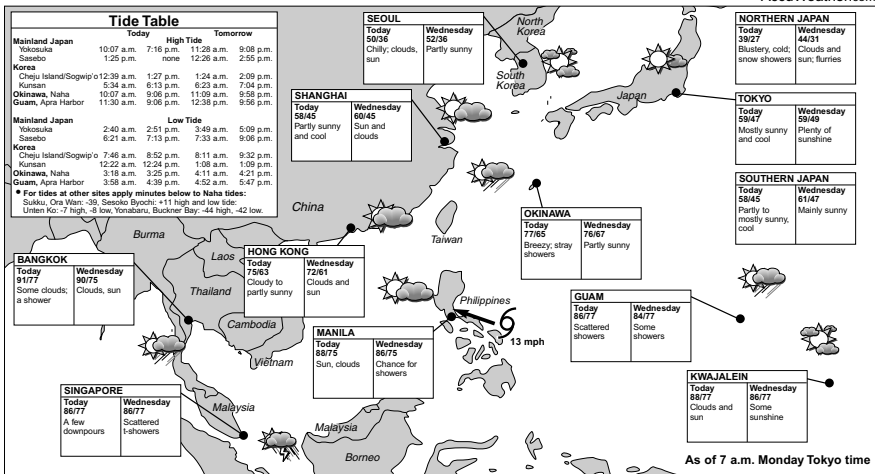
Diaz



Timberlake

The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
 Thursday: Showers, high 57, low 48.
 Friday: Rain, high 62, low 50.

KADENA
 Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 79, low 68.
 Friday: Partly sunny, high 75, low 64.

SEOUL
 Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 51, low 34.
 Friday: Partly sunny, high 52, low 34.

MANILA
 Thursday: Showers, high 86, low 75.
 Friday: Mostly cloudy, high 88, low 75.

HAGATNA
 Thursday: Showers, high 87, low 77.
 Friday: Showers, high 88, low 78.

Sunday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	44/29	Los Angeles	78/54
Amarillo	39/31	Little Rock	56/46
Anchorage	34/25	Louisville	57/33
Ashville	53/26	Miami	83/68
Baltimore	51/30	Milwaukee	51/34
Birmingham	62/36	Nashville	63/34
Bismarck	57/27	New York	48/38
Boise	54/38	Omaha	51/36
Boston	45/36	Orlando	80/60
Brownsville	81/61	Philadelphia	51/34
Buffalo	48/30	Phoenix	69/56
Burlington	43/28	Pittsburgh	50/25
Charleston, SC	61/38	Portland, OR	57/46
Charlotte	56/30	Portland, ME	58/35
Cleveland	62/41	San Diego	72/54
Columbus, OH	52/26	Salt Lake City	50/33
Duluth	50/26	San Antonio	58/53
El Paso	48/37	San Jose	72/54
Hartford	49/29	San Juan	82/75
Helena	43/18	Tampa	81/60
Indianapolis	54/30	Tulsa	56/43
Jacksonville	63/48	Washington	53/36
Kansas City	53/42	Wichita	49/44

Tuesday, November 16



U.S. Extended Forecast

Rain will be the story across Texas Tuesday and Wednesday. A slow moving storm will spark a large area of rain and thunderstorms over the state. Prolonged periods of heavy rain may lead to flooding across western and central Texas. Elsewhere, high pressure will dominate the weather across the East. Sunny and dry weather will prevail across the Middle Atlantic and Northeast. Mild air will cover the northern and central Plains. Temperatures in the 50s will warm parts of Montana and the Dakotas on Tuesday. A storm will slowly push across the Northwest. Clouds will bring rain to parts of Washington and Oregon. Sunshine will warm Arizona and Southern California.

Tuesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	91/77	Wakani	57/44
Beijing	52/34	Kadena AB	77/65
Camp Casey	48/33	Kunsan AB	54/39
Christchurch	62/41	Kwajalein	88/77
Diego Garcia	82/75	Manila	88/75
Hagatna	86/77	Masawa AB	47/33
Hanoi	73/58	Osan	52/34
Hong Kong	75/63	Perth	76/52
Honolulu	84/72	Pusan	55/41
		Sapporo	39/27
		Seoul	50/36
		Shanghai	58/45
		Singapore	86/77
		Sydney	72/55
		Tagu	54/36
		Taipei	74/59
		Tokyo	59/47

Tuesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Budapest	62/46	Kabul	59/25
Buenos Aires	73/49	Kiev	41/28
Cairo	87/59	Kuwait	81/56
Cancun	79/69	London	54/46
Cardenas	87/71	Madrid	57/42
Geneva	57/45	Mexico City	67/44
Guantanamo	44/33	Montreal	39/31
Havana	79/64	Osaka	58/46
Johannesburg	82/58	Paris	57/42
		Rio de Janeiro	73/62
		Rome	53/43
		St. Petersburg	32/20
		Stockholm	32/23
		Warsaw	43/27



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OPINION

Only comprehensive Mideast plan will help

BY BRENT SCOWCROFT

With a hard-fought election behind us, the United States is now free to refocus its energies on the myriad problems that have a direct impact on its security and destiny. Nowhere do those problems press more insistently on our vital interests than in the Middle East.

The region has been changed forever by the decision to go into Iraq. The debate about the timing and rationale for the war is behind us, but the continued presence of U.S. forces, and changes in the regional balance of power, mean we no longer have the luxury of treating Middle East policy as a series of unrelated events running on separate calendars. We face the need for simultaneous actions to avoid failed states while reducing the incentives to violence and instability that threaten America and friendly states throughout the region.

Iraq, Israel-Palestine, Iran and terrorism are parts of a whole and can be satisfactorily engaged only as such. To cut through this Gordian knot will require not only a new approach but the deep, sustained commitment of the United States and a significant investment of the president's attention.

But American resolve will not suffice without the willing engagement of other states, especially those of Europe and the region itself. Our appeal to the Europeans, and with whom our differences over the Middle East have been significant, must be based on reaching out to them on the Palestinian peace process and Iran and soliciting their help on Iraq. Similarly, we need to ensure that the Arab states are substantive participants in finding a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian issue, and we must engage them more fully in securing Iraq's future.

The goal we seek in Iraq is to create a secure environment in which reconstruction of the economy can vigorously get under way and national reconciliation can proceed. The reality is unpalatable though it may be that providing such an environment in a reasonable time frame will require a larger coalition force than is currently deployed there.

The force increment must come either from our own already stretched military or from our friends and allies.

Comfortably re-elected, President Bush is in an excellent position to renew his appeal for a greater international presence in Iraq. The leaders of Europe and the Arab world surely recognize — even if their publics may not — that a failed Iraq would affect their countries every bit as seriously as it would the United States. As evidenced by the NATO deployment of Afghanistan, our allies are also stretched thin. But European willingness to provide even a modest nucleus of troops could provide immediate and cover for other states, especially Muslim ones, to make militarily meaningful contributions. This would also serve to reduce the U.S. profile in Iraq but, it must be emphasized, would not — and should not — provide any near-term basis for reducing our

own forces.

This essential step in Iraq needs to be accompanied by a U.S. undertaking to revitalize the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. Yasser Arafat has passed from the scene. His death represents a sea change in the Palestinian situation and, as Bush has remarked, "an opening for peace." Both the United States and Israel have refused to deal with Arafat. The United States must seize this unique opportunity to make a decisive move.

The president should add substance to his commitment to an independent Palestinian state. It must include steps to provide security to Israel and to give the Palestinians the ability and means to construct a viable political entity free from the crushing presence of Israeli troops. The United States should insist that Israel stop construction of its wall on the West Bank and mirror its withdrawal from Gaza with the evacuation of the West Bank. In return, the wall and Israeli troops would be replaced by an international force, principally European or perhaps NATO troops.

The Palestinians should be pressed to take urgent measures to replace Arafat with political leadership that is both willing and able to undertake responsible negotiations and deliver on its commitments.

Arab friends, notably Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Morocco, should provide vital guidance, encouragement and support.

The "road map" plan of the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations should be revived and fortified by these actions and vigorously pushed by its sponsors to

final settlement. The outlines of such a settlement have, by the otherwise unfortunate stagnation of the process, become much less certain. A unified Jerusalem would serve as capital to both peoples. While the "right of return" could be as a principle, the reality is that most Palestinian refugees will remain outside Israel, just as most Jewish settlers will return to Israel.

A donor pool may need to be organized to provide compensation for both groups. Bor-



der rectifications would be necessary to compensate for the settlement solution and would complete the package.

Substantial, visible progress on the Palestinian issue would significantly improve the atmosphere in Iraq and the rest of the Middle East, including Iran, the third side of this triangle of tension and violence. The United States has three objectives with respect to Iran: a cessation of any moves toward nuclear proliferation; cooperation that contributes actively to stability in the Persian Gulf and in Iraq; and Iranian restraint on Hezbollah and other radical groups.

To obtain these goals — and encourage European cooperation — the United States must take several initiatives.

To begin, it should modify its attitude toward the British-French-German negotiations with Iran over its pursuit of uranium enrichment capabilities. We should actively embrace the European position, urge the Russians to join us and jointly approach Iran. Such an approach would support Iranian efforts to develop nuclear power, including the offer of an ensured supply of nuclear reactor fuel (low enriched uranium) at concessionary prices — or even *gratis* — in exchange for a comprehensive, verifiable freeze of Iran's uranium enrichment program.

Iran not only has strong interests in the future of Iraq but a powerful influence through its religious connections to the Shiite majority there. We should engage Iran

about the future of Iraq, comparing our separate perspectives and emphasizing our joint interests.

In that regard, the multilateral discussions over Iraq scheduled later this month at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, should become the start of a dialogue, with U.N. participation. Those discussions should be broadened to include a Persian Gulf

security group of nations, blessed and supported by the United States. This could serve to assuage Iran's security concerns and temper its urge to acquire a nuclear capability.

Finally, the United States should indicate a willingness to modify its sanctions regime and thereby its relationship to Iran, were Iran willing to restrain

Hezbollah and exercise its influence over other extremist groups. This would greatly minimize the risk that violence and other radical disruptions would hinder the Palestinian peace process.

The stakes are high. Progress in the region, in addition to being extremely critical for its own sake, holds the promise of making a substantial and lasting contribution to the war on terrorism.

Brent Scowcroft, national security adviser under presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, is founder and president of the Forum for International Policy. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.



THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

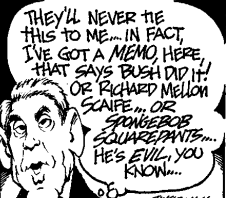
Mourners take to the streets of the West Bank town of Ramallah on Thursday following the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in France.

Mallard Fillmore

Editor's Note: Apparently, this comic strip has been the victim of an elaborate deception, in which the time-space continuum was tampered with...

to make it appear that JOHN KERRY won the election... This had to have been an inside job done by someone...

...in my own cartoon syndicate. Someone who wanted Kerry to win so badly, that it blurred his already-shaky grip on reality... but WHO? WHO?!!



BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Teacher's cello found

NY NEW YORK — A cello for sale in a midtown music store struck a familiar chord with a teacher at the Juilliard School.

That's because it was hers. Her beloved 69-year-old Michelle Ashley, is valued at \$30,150.

The cello disappeared from a locked closet at Juilliard while the teacher was on vacation in February, prosecutors said.

Pablo Melendez, 22, of the Bronx was awaiting arraignment in connection with the cello's disappearance.

If convicted, Melendez could receive up to seven years.

School field memorial

ID POCATELLO — Volunteers turned a middle school football field into a symbolic cemetery filled with white crosses to commemorate the more than 1,250 U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their Field of Heroes was the backdrop for the city's Veterans Day events.

Front-page wrong number

FL JACKSONVILLE — A newspaper mistakenly published the telephone number of a sex talk service on the front page of its Election Day issue. The number was supposed to be for a national voter hot line.

"We didn't follow our policy of calling the number before publishing it," said Pat Yack, editor of The Florida Times-Union.

Yack said as soon as the mistake was learned, a correction was published on the newspaper's Web site and in the paper.

Public gets peak access

ND BISMARCK — A couple that bought North Dakota's highest peak will allow the public unlimited access, ending a battle among the former gatekeeper's children over what to do with the property.

Daryle and Mary Dennis purchased White Butte Amnion, and about 1,000 acres of farm and ranch land from the heirs of Angeline Van Daele, who owned White Butte for 45 years. After she died in October 2003, the sale of the land ended up in probate court, which handles wills and estates.

Mary Dennis said she and her husband leased ranch land from Van Daele for years, and that they bought the property to give their cattle room to graze.

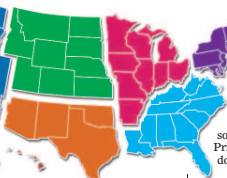
Dog drowning case

NH PORTSMOUTH — One of two women accused of drowning a dog in a bathtub in what was supposed to be a "mercy killing" has pleaded not guilty to charges of animal cruelty.

Shannon Walters, 34, of Newmarket, is charged with animal cruelty in the death of Dewey, a miniature dachshund owned by her friend's former boyfriend.

Walters co-defendant Erin M. Wylie, 27, of Portsmouth, pleaded not guilty on Oct. 28.

The women are accused of putting a wool sock over the dog's head and carrying it to Wylie's apartment in a garment bag. Both



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

were indicted in New Hampshire and Maine but waived their right to arraignment in New Hampshire.

'Hole' lot of luck

WA SPOKANE — Chris Varallo thought it was quite amazing when he ached the third hole at Liberty Lake Golf Course. Then he went ahead and hit a second hole-in-one on the 11th hole of the same round.

Odds against that are about 67 million to 1, according to Golf Digest.

The 22-handicapper, a lawyer, finished his round 31 strokes over par at 101 at the course.

Varallo, who has never broken 90, called his two aces "the two best shots I'll ever hit." At 31, he said, he's reached the pinnacle of his athletic career.

Too nice for flu shots

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Are Minnesotaans too nice to get flu shots? That's what some nurses are thinking after vaccination sites around the Twin Cities are being left with extra doses of vaccine, despite the nationwide shortage.

"I've heard many people say, 'I am 65, but my 92-year old mom needs it,'" said Mary Ann Blade, president of the Minnesota Visitation

ing Nurses Agency, which runs flu clinics around the state.

At a clinic at in the Minneapolis suburb of Bloomington, public health workers came to City Hall with 800 vaccine doses but gave out only 259. About 10 miles to the southwest, nurses at a clinic in Prior Lake arrived with 1,000 doses and left with 750.

Frustrated health officials said they may be dealing with an excessive case of "Minnesota nice," the copious courtesy and deferential nature for which Minnesotans are known.

Political striptease

LA JEFFERSON — When an election worker told Debbie Dupeire that her Bush-Cheney T-shirt was illegal at the polls, Dupeire didn't get mad. She got undressed.

Dupeire ripped off the T-shirt and voted in a sports bra, too afraid to lose her place in a long line. Under state law, candidates' names cannot be displayed within 500 feet of a polling place.

"I really thought it was OK to wear my shirt. I didn't go there to cause trouble," said Debbie Dupeire, a 38-year-old makeup artist.

Pesky rat does damage

OK ARDMORE — It's a nutty explanation, but a mechanic says a rat is to blame for some car trouble.

Carol Windham was forced to run a red light when her gas pedal stuck down after she hit the brakes. Pressing both feet on the pedal, she managed to get her van through the intersection unscathed and was able to stop it near a fast-food restaurant.

The van was towed to an auto repair shop, where a mechanic popped the hood and found a pile of pecans.

Apparently, when Windham depressed the brake pedal, one of the pecans fell and lodged next to the accelerator cable, causing the throttle to stick open.

Windham checked the engine compartment of her other vehicle when she got home and found more pecans and half an apple.

"We put peanut butter on the rat trap, put it on one of the tires and tied it down," she said.

The next morning, Windham heard the rat dead.

Disabled kids held hostage

FL ELLENTON — A motel manager was charged with holding a bus of Special Olympics athletes at gunpoint after a dispute about where the group should park.

John Embury, 47, was charged with aggravated assault and false imprisonment and was being held without bail, the Manatee County Sheriff's Office said.

Embury, manager of the Sleep Inn, held the bus at gunpoint for 10 minutes while the children lay on the floor because he did not want the bus parked in the motel's small lot, police said.

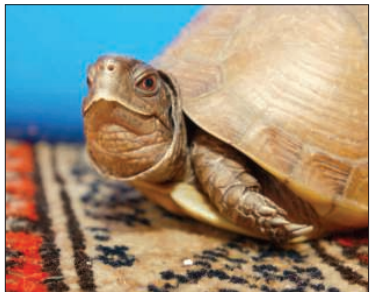
The competitors had returned to the hotel to change for a dance, dinner and awards ceremony. There were 19 athletes on board, ages 8 to 22, and nine adult chaperones.



Unusual transportation Allia Lane, 21, rides a unicycle with her daughter, Amariyah Lane-Volz, in Columbia, Mo. Lane said her whole family rides unicycles and she began riding when she was 4 years old.



Cardboard box living Emily Duschon, 15, far left, Annie Shepard, 16, center left, and Carrie Cowan, 16, center, laugh at their effort in squeezing through a small opening in the cardboard boxes assembled on the grounds of Notre Dame de Sion High School in Kansas City, Mo., to raise awareness of homeless people and collect food for area food pantries.



Coming out of the shell A turtle peeks from its shell during an educational program at the Moore Free Library in Newfane, Vt.



A grand rainbow

A double rainbow forms at Hopi Point after a rain shower at Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.



Don't put me under Computed Tomography technician Vic Shook strains to move a 140-pound sedated St. Bernard named Zeus onto the carriage of the CT imaging machine in York, Va.



Circus act Clowns from Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus teach some techniques to the Parade Company's Distinguished Clown Corps in Detroit.



Winter fun Hailey Hills, 5, runs toward her brother Mikey, 3, back, as they enjoy an early snowfall in Terryville, Conn.



Free falling Skydivers free fall some 13,000 feet over the Florida Keys above Marathon, Fla., during the opening day of the Sebastian/Keys Boogie, an annual parachuting event.

Parakeet death charges

WV MARTINSBURG — A woman has been charged with animal cruelty for what police call a retaliatory killing of a parakeet.

Witnesses told police that Andrea Grantham brandished a knife during a weekend property dispute with a neighbor. Grantham then allegedly killed a pet parakeet that the neighbor had given her, police said.

Police found a dead parakeet in Grantham's back yard, "and she still had feathers in her hair when she spoke to police," Patrolman Scott Funkhouser said.

Grantham, 39, was arrested and released on \$500 bail.

One way to stop DUIs

IN BLOOMINGTON — Taking to heart the credo that friends should never let friends drive drunk, a man shot out two tires on his pal's car to keep him from driving under the influence.

The move backfired when the incensed driver got out of his car, pulled a knife and attacked his friend, according to a report by Bloomington police.

Police arrested the driver, David Woodward, 39, of Indianapolis, on a preliminary charge of battery after the fight.

Authorities said they expected to file charges within a few days against the other man after officers found two handguns and an assault-style rifle in his home.

Krispy Kreme cake

WA ISSAQUAH — Carefully, 1,818 Krispy Kreme doughnuts were built into a 5-foot, 3-inch heap in an attempt to set a world record for the highest doughnut wedding cake.

Then bakers of the effort at a Jewish celebration trade show in this Seattle suburb, dismantled the 363,600-calorie mound and gave away the glazed doughnuts, five at a time.

The result will be sent for consideration in the Guinness World Records, which now has no height record for a doughnut cake, said Carin Freedel, chief executive of Mitzvah Mavens, which hosted the event.

57-year-old has twins

NY NEW YORK — The sister of Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa gave birth to twins, just three days shy of her 57th birthday.

Aleta St. James, who became pregnant by in-vitro fertilization, and her newborn son and daughter are doing well, said Maria Sliwa, the babies' aunt.

St. James, a motivation speaker who helped her brother set up the crime-fighting group in the 1970s, said earlier that it's never too late to become a mother.

"You are never too old," she said. "It's just in your mind."

Robbers can spell

MO KANSAS CITY — Two men who robbed the pastor of a Kansas City church at gunpoint led behind two clues for the cops to check out their names.

The Rev. Tony R. Caldwell was short of cash, so he offered to write each man a check for \$150. The men agreed, making certain the

pastor knew the correct spellings of their names.

The robbery happened when Caldwell invited the man to his upstairs office, where the man said he wanted another chance in a church program he had been kicked out of. The program provides food and shelter to men who are homeless or recently released from jail.

Mercury collection on

ME PORTLAND — Officials say close to half of the state's population now has access to mercury collection and recycling programs required under state law beginning in January.

Some towns are setting up mercury collection facilities while others are constructing the work.

Escaped convict caught

NC GASTON COUNTY — William Glenn Barefoot fought the law until the bitter end. It took three officers and pepper spray to subdue him.

The escaped convict's 15-day odyssey ended when about 150 federal, state and municipal officers were combing a wooded tract in Gaston County, according to authorities.

Barefoot, 40, ran to a nearby house, intending to use the phone, said Steven Gladden, a U.S. Marshal spokesman. But it was too late.

Law officers searching within an eight-square-mile area already had spotted him.

When Barefoot escaped from the Hoke County jail, he was serving an 85-year sentence for a 2001 crime spree that included some invasions and the shooting of a sheriff's deputy.

Dessert allegedly spiked

NY BATH — A woman spiked her elderly neighbor's apple strudel cake with medicine after learning the 82-year-old man was going to include her in his will, authorities said.

"Luckily, he noticed the pills in the strudel before he got more than a bite or two of it," said prosecutor, Travis J. Barry.

Barry said Jennifer Clark placed the pastry with a nighttime pain reliever to try to hasten her inheritance.

Clark, 26, was originally charged with attempted assault. But under an agreement with prosecutors, she is expected to plead guilty Nov. 22 to reckless endangerment, which carries up to six years in prison.

Bathrobe beating

WA TACOMA — A man dressed in only his bathrobe subdued a would-be car thief over the weekend, beating the younger man bloody and holding him until authorities arrived, according to a police report.

The resident told police he was watching television when his girlfriend came into the room and said she thought someone was breaking into their 1990 Cadillac on track.

The 45-year-old man said he threw on a robe and ran barefoot to the alley, where he discovered someone in the driver's seat of his car.

The young man was trying to jam a screwdriver into the ignition, the man said.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

Make your deal now — it's done fair and square, and you don't have to worry about the backlash of buyer's remorse or any such thing. The Capricorn moon does get to the point. And with the Scorpio sun rooting for us to clue into what people really want (the story behind the story), it's more likely we can fulfill both spoken and unspoken promises.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 16). This year, you've dropped the need to be jaded, so, at times, you'll feel naive and vulnerable. Life will unfold for you as if you're seeing it for the first time. Romance is part of what makes this possible. Someone special makes your heart sing in the next three months. Make decisions about work in February. Love signs are Capricorn and Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You caple. You kid. You flatter and flirt. And still, you have no idea where you stand with that closed-off someone. Keep working on it. If anyone can melt through that layer of ancient ice, you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sweeping changes dazzle you, but don't hang around slack-jawed for long. There's an opportunity in this, and you're just the one to take advantage of it! On a romantic note, be a bit more curious about a loved one's past.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've awake in a swingin' mood, like you found your inner Austin Powers. Swanky sentiments get the attention of your target audience. Maybe you dance it. However you do it, you do it with style.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A juicy prize lands in your world, but unfortunately, everyone else wants it, too. It's like a soccer team for 5-year-olds. Everyone huddles around the ball instead of taking his or her position in the field. Your maturity prevails.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You act out of a sense of honor, because it's right and because you're a noble person. So what if nobody notices

just yet? Don't worry! Someone will — without prompting from you. Tonight, it's up to you to live them up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll have a one-on-one audience with an excited individual — not the opportunity to divulge your smarts. Keep things friendly and light. A sprightly air sign (a Gemini, Libra or Aquarius) makes your heart beat like a tom-tom.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Who can work with the theatrics going on behind the scenes? It's all you can do to stop planning your escape and focus on the proceedings. But focus you must if you're to get your share of the rewards.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It feels so fabulous to be liked and accepted! However, there's no reason to rush into any agreements or declare your passionate alliance with anyone. Take it easy! Keep your cards tucked into your chest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A relationship tugs at you, trying to get your attention. So it's just not where your head is — does that stop you a bad person? No, but you'll proud of yourself later if you stop and acknowledge what others need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Real opportunity doesn't drop names and make big promises. It gives you a sly smile instead and opens the door just a crack so that you can see a sliver of what's possible. Beware of people who are all show, no go.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're not backed into a corner. You're backed into a circle — a merry-go-round that's difficult to jump off. Love takes you for a whirl, making you feel both stifled and free all at once. At least contradiction makes things interesting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're the healer of your environment. As much as you'd like to feel an automatic sense of belonging at work, the kinsip has been deteriorating. You'll have to build it from scratch now, and you're the one who can.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



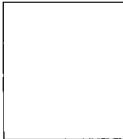
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



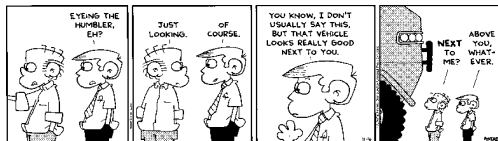
Better or Worse



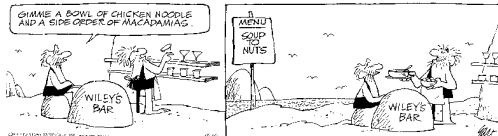
Peanuts



Foxrot



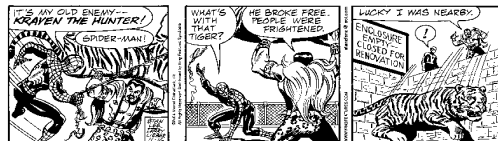
B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



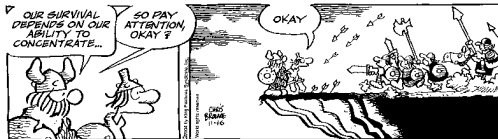
Blondie



Dilbert



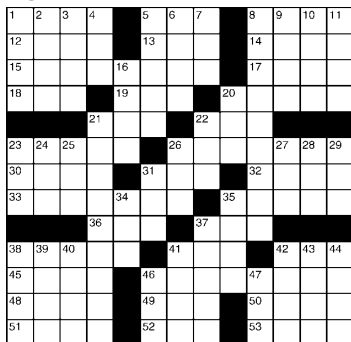
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Heavenly ring
- 5 Hired transport
- 8 Pesky insect
- 12 On the rocks
- 13 Big bother
- 14 "Clue" weapon
- 15 Winner of Super Bowls I and II
- 17 Square
- 18 Feminine pronoun
- 19 Intention
- 20 Banquet
- 21 Martini ingredient
- 22 Engredient
- 23 Medieval peasant
- 26 Theft
- 30 Unadulterated
- 31 Male or female
- 32 Chills and fever
- 33 Forgetfulness
- 35 Facade
- 36 Affirmative action
- 37 Tease
- 38 Noble's domain
- 41 Sprite
- 42 — out a living
- 45 Reverberate
- 46 "Basket Case" band
- 48 Winglike
- 49 — was saying, ...

Down

- 1 Exorbitant
- 2 Farm fraction
- 3 Ogle
- 4 Praise in verse
- 5 With 7-Down, 1994 Chris Elliott movie
- 6 Leading man
- 7 See 5-Down
- 8 Alien's quest
- 9 Exploding star
- 10 Mimics
- 11 Bivouac structure
- 16 Apprehend
- 20 Bear hair
- 21 Tenderfoot
- 22 Send electronically
- 23 IRA employee
- 24 Drone
- 25 Grecian vessel
- 26 Actress Thompson
- 27 Id counterpart
- 28 Conventional
- 29 Nevertheless
- 31 Football Hall-of-Famer Luckman
- 34 Sauce source
- 35 Small flute
- 37 Comic Robert
- 38 Out of play
- 39 USC rival
- 40 Burn slightly
- 41 Gaelic
- 42 Advantage
- 43 "Family Feud" host Richard
- 44 Kept tabs on
- 46 Hiatus
- 47 Promptly

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-16

CRYPTOQUIP

KYML CNC KWLFM O YMS
FKBL ZNXU FN QNCM
BCCMOBWFMRX, UYM KNDRO

Q SX "NL FYM ONDZRM!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT SAY THAT MOVIES STARRING ACTOR CHEVY HAVE MANY CHASE SCENES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals M

15 signs of abusive relationship

Dear Abby: In 1996, in memory of a 19-year-old battered woman who was murdered by her boyfriend, you printed an item requested by her family. It changed my life. On March 29 of that year, my dad said, "I have something for you," and handed me your column. It contained a list of 15 warning signs of a batterer. It was my wake-up call.

At first I thought, "How can this help ME?" Well, it did. Few realize how important a verbal abuse and criticism play in an abuser's efforts to gain control and keep you from leaving. The verbal abuse was harder for me to deal with than being kicked in the back when I'd walk away from one of his outbursts.

After reading that column, I finally understood there was nothing I could change that would make him love me. Thank you.

Dear Grateful in Illinois ask if I hear from readers letting me

Dear Abby



know how columns affect them.

Today, I'll reprint that list in your honor.

(1) **PUSHES FOR QUICK INVOLVEMENT:** Comes on strong and pressures the new partner for an exclusive commitment almost immediately.

(2) **JEALOUS:** Excessively possessive; calls constantly or visits unexpectedly.

(3) **CONTROLLING:** Interrogates you intensely (especially if you're late) about whom you talked to and where you were.

(4) **UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS:** Expects you to be the perfect mate.

(5) **ISOLATION:** Tries to cut you off from family and friends; accuses people who are your supporters of "causing trouble."

(6) **BLAMES OR MISTAKES:** It's always someone else's fault.

(7) **MAKES OTHERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER FEELINGS:** The abuser says, "You

make me angry," instead of "I

am."

(8) **HYPERSENSITIVITY:** Is easily insulted, claiming hurt feelings when actually mad.

(9) **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS OR CHILDREN:** Kills or punishes animals brutally.

(10) **"PLAYFUL" USE OF FORCE DURING SEX:** Enjoys throwing you down or holding you down against your will.

(11) **VERBAL ABUSE:** Constantly criticizes or says blatantly cruel things.

(12) **RIGID GENDER ROLES:** Expects you to serve, obey, remain at home.

(13) **SUDDEN MOOD SWINGS:** Switches from sweet to violent in minutes.

(14) **PAST BATTERING:** Admits to hitting a mate in the past.

(15) **THREATS OF VIOLENCE:** Says things like, "I'll break your neck," or "I'll kill you," and then dismisses them.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can email to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WHASA

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PEDYT

HYLOW

ATWIRE

www.jumble.com

Ans:

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHYLY NOTCH PREACH MINGLE

Answer: When the scholars took a night flight their conversation was on a — HIGH "PLANE"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. THE " " (Answers tomorrow)

Stand firm with sister's children

Dear Annie: My mother, my husband and I are co-raising my younger sister's two wonderful boys. My sister has many issues (drugs being one of them) and only wants to be a mom when it is convenient. My mother wants to be a grandma but will not help discipline the kids.

Basically, she wants to be liked.

My husband and I adore the boys, but unfortunately, we are their only disciplinarians, and the boys tend to resent that. Also, we have a child of our own, and he adores his cousins, but we are afraid that he may start to act like them.

I've talked to my Mom about this, and she believes she is doing her part, but in a more relaxed manner. She allows the boys to ransack her home on a daily basis and believes that I'm too stern and impatient.

Annie's Mailbox



How do we resolve this without losing the boys to the dark side, and how can we get my mom on the same program?

— Arizona Auntie

Dear Auntie: Let your mother be a grandma. She isn't willing to be anything else, and there's no point in arguing endlessly. If your discipline methods are fair and consistent, ALL of the children will learn to respect you, and they will behave in your presence. The fact that they are testing your limits is normal, so make sure they know what those limits are. You have authority on an enormous responsibility, but you sound quite capable. We commend you for caring enough about your nephews to be the kind of parent they need. Please don't give up on them.

Dear Annie: My niece recently was married in a civil ceremony.

ny. Now she is planning a big wedding for next February. My son will be the best man, and my daughter is the maid of honor.

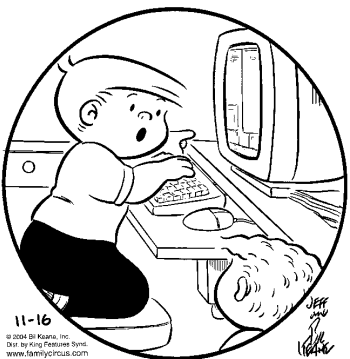
My niece expects them to give a couple's shower as well as arrange the bachelor and bachelorette parties. This seems excessive to me. And isn't it deceptive to invite hundreds of guests to a wedding that already has taken place?

— Aunt in San Bernardino, Calif.

Dear Aunt: Many couples who have had civil ceremonies later have religious weddings and/or large receptions. It also is OK to have a couple's shower if there were no other showers. However, it's a bit late for bachelor and bachelorette parties, and we hope your children can talk the bride out of those.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie-mailbox@comcast.net or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



11-16

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"I'm on the honor roll, but there's nothing about it on Google."

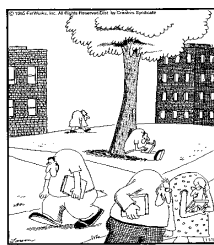


Dennis the Menace



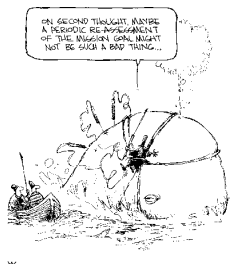
© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Between classes at the College of Laboratory Assistants

Non Sequitur



ON SECOND THOUGHT, THERE'S A SERIOUS REASON WHY NOT BE SUCH A BAD THING.

86

11-16

www.fox.com

STRIPES CLASSIFIER

[illegible]

SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

AFN-Sports, 230 a.m.—Daily racing: NHRA Automobile Club of Southern California. NASCAR Cup Day 2.

AFN-Atlanta, 830 a.m.—NFL: ESPN NFL Network. NBC SportsCenter.

AFN-Atlanta, 2 p.m.—NFL: Atlanta Braves.

AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.—Tennis: ATP Masters Cup Day 2.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—NFL: Philadelphia at Dallas (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 830 p.m.—NBA: Golden State at Cleveland (dtd).

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—NFL: Philadelphia at Pittsburgh (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: Utah at Charlotte (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—Tennis: ATP Masters Cup Day 2.

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—Auto racing: NASCAR Cup Southern 500 (dtd).

AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.—College football: Ohio State at Purdue (dtd).

All times Japan and Korea Standard Time did indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio and TV casts not available in all areas. Visit www.nyah.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

New England 1 W 1 T 0 Pct PF PA

N.Y. Jets 1 0 0 0.000 120 120

Miami 1 0 0 0.000 113 126

Indianapolis 4 3 0 0.667 208 209

Jacksonville 1 0 0 0.000 127 141

Houston 6 4 0 0.857 283 223

Tennessee 3 3 0 0.500 133 197

North

Pittsburgh 1 0 0 0.000 101 147

Baltimore 6 3 0 0.667 134 103

Cincinnati 3 0 0 0.750 152 109

Cleveland 3 0 0 0.750 178 188

West

Denver 6 3 0 0.667 195 154

San Diego 6 0 0 0.667 151 123

Kansas City 3 0 0 0.333 253 238

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia 7 1 0 0.875 189 91

Washington 7 1 0 0.875 171 141

Dallas 3 5 0 0.375 141 203

Atlanta 2 5 0 0.286 113 153

South

Atlanta 2 0 0 0.000 79 194

New Orleans 4 0 0 0.444 198 254

Carolina 1 7 0 0.125 184 185

North

Minnesota 5 3 0 0.625 211 193

Green Bay 4 0 0 0.000 206 186

Detroit 4 0 0 0.444 164 194

Chicago 4 0 0 0.444 159 199

West

San Francisco 3 5 0 0.375 160 183

Seattle 4 0 0 0.556 206 208

Arizona 3 5 0 0.375 160 183

San Francisco 3 5 0 0.375 160 183

Sunday's games

10 a.m. Tennessee at Dallas

1 p.m. Indianapolis at Houston

1 p.m. St. Louis at Seattle 12

1 p.m. Tampa Bay at Jacksonville 23

1 p.m. Cleveland at Pittsburgh 24

1 p.m. Cleveland at Pittsburgh 24

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1 p.m. Cleveland at Pittsburgh 24

1 p.m. Cleveland at Pittsburgh 24

13. Michigan State (0-0) did not play.

14. Louisville (0-0) did not play.

15. Maryland (0-0) did not play.

16. Texas (0-0) did not play.

17. Pittsburgh (0-0) did not play.

18. Alabama (0-0) did not play.

19. North Carolina State (0-0) did not play.

20. Notre Dame (0-0) did not play.

21. Wisconsin (0-0) did not play.

22. Washington (0-0) did not play.

23. North Carolina (0-0) did not play.

24. Memphis (0-0) did not play.

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26. George Mason (0-0) did not play.

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Saturday's men's scores

EAST

Pratt 73, Sarah Lawrence 40

St. Vincent 85, Penn State 40

SOUTH

Asbury 82, Kentucky Christian 70

Breslin 72, Tenn. Wesleyan 46

St. Francis 72, St. Francis 72

Campbellville 73, Union 63

North Central 77, William Carey 67

Lambuth 75, Berry 60

Pikeville 83, Berea 69

MIDWEST

Baker 76, Midland Lutheran 74

OT Bethel, Kan. 82, Haskell Indian Nations 62

Rock Hills 81, Rocky Mountain 74

Connersville 89, Huntington 66

Rock Hills 81, Rocky Mountain 74

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Connersville 89, Huntington 66

Rock Hills 81, Rocky Mountain 74

TOURNAMENT

Bevo Francis Tournament

Championship

Indiana Wesleyan 83, Macon 53

Consolation

Indiana Wesleyan 83, Macon 53

Third Place

Indiana Wesleyan 83, Macon 53

EXHIBITION

Sixes need 48 minutes to reach magic

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson had 29 points and 12 assists and Marc Jackson added 13 points to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 96-87 victory over the Orlando Magic on Sunday.

The Sixers have won the first three games of a five-game home-stand, but this was the first to be settled in regulation. Iverson sent the first game against New Jersey into overtime with a last-second shot and won Friday's game at the buzzer in overtime to beat Indiana. He wrapped up Sunday's game early.

He had five assists in the third quarter, took two straight layups on baskets to Jackson and Andre Igouda — that snapped a tie game and led a decisive 17-run.

Iverson shook off a tender left ankle he injured on Friday and didn't seem bothered by a sore left arm hurt when he slammed into the base of the basket late in the third quarter.

Grant Hill led the Magic with

18 points, Pat Garrity added 14 and No. 1 draft pick Dwight Howard had 14 rebounds. Steve Francis, who came in averaging 20.8 points in 42 percent shooting, scored 14 points.

Mavericks 122, Wizards 113 At Washington, D.C., Dirk Nowitzki had 32 points, 13 rebounds and five assists and former Wizard Jerry Stackhouse added 24 points for Dallas. Stackhouse made three three-pointers during a 23-6 run in the fourth quarter that helped Dallas break open a close game.

Antawn Jamison and Larry Hughes each had 23 points and Gilbert Arenas and Brendan Haywood added 20 apiece for Washington.

In Saturday's games, **Warriors 103, Bobcats 87** In Charlotte, Jason Richardson scored 27 points and Turley Murphy led Golden State's 18th victory for rookie coach Mike Montgomery, who opened his NBA career with six consecutive losses. Golden State was in danger of be-

sting the franchise foulplay mark set at the start of the 1997-98 season by opening 0-9.

Spurs 103, Hawks 88 Tim Duncan had 26 points and 18 rebounds and Bruce Bowen had a career-high 22 points to help San Antonio win in Atlanta.

Antoine Walker led the Hawks with 23 points.

Pacers 103, Knicks 97 In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal had 33 points and 12 rebounds, Ron Artest marked his 100th birthday with 22 points and Stephen Jackson added 19. It was Indiana's fourth game in five nights and, because of injuries, the Pacers had only 10 players available.

Bucks 94, Hornets 91 Michael Redd scored 30 points and Keith Van Horn and Desmond Mason 17 each to lead Milwaukee over visiting New Orleans.

Roundup

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	4	2	.667	0
Toronto	4	2	.667	0
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1
New York	2	4	.333	2
Washington	1	5	.167	3

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	4	2	.667	0
Orlando	4	2	.667	0
Charlotte	4	2	.667	0
Atlanta	3	3	.500	1
Washington	1	5	.167	3

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	4	2	.667	0
Indiana	4	2	.667	0
Chicago	3	3	.500	1
Detroit	3	3	.500	1
Minnesota	2	4	.333	2

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	4	2	.667	0
San Antonio	4	2	.667	0
Phoenix	3	3	.500	1
New Orleans	2	4	.333	2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	5	1	.833	0
Utah	4	2	.667	1
Minnesota	4	2	.667	1
Portland	3	3	.500	2
Denver	2	4	.333	3

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	4	2	.667	0
A. Clippers	4	2	.667	0
L.A. Lakers	4	2	.667	0
Sacramento	3	3	.500	1
Golden State	2	4	.333	2

Saturday's games

in 0-1 0-0, Hayward 4-8 2-4 10, Hup
 0-7, Arenas 9-20 4-5 25, Hayes 1-
 Dixon 2-6 1-1 5, Peeler 1-5 0-0 2, W.
 0-0 2, Jeffries 0-1 2-2 2, Profit 2-3 0-0 5
 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 29-87 11-14 74.
CLEVELAND — James 10-20 4-5 24,
 6-12 2-2 14, Ilgauskas 8-15 5-5 21,
 6-12 0-0 13, Newble 1-6 0-0 2, Snow 7-
 Williams 1-1 1-1 3, Harris 3-6 4-4 11,

Sunday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	122	Washington	113	
San Antonio	122	Phoenix	113	
Milwaukee	103	Atlanta	87	
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L.A. Clippers				

Tillman's 42 is retired by Arizona St.

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer was among about 50 former Arizona State teammates who gathered Saturday night to help the school retire the late Pat Tillman's No. 42 jersey in a halftime ceremony.

Members of Tillman's family also were on hand for the second such tribute at Sun Devil Stadium, during Arizona State's home finale against Washington State. The NFL's Arizona Cardinals retired Tillman's jersey in their home opener on Sept. 19.

"He would be the first one to appreciate us all having a beer on his behalf," Plummer said during a pregame gathering. "We're all here paying tribute to him because we loved him dearly, and we miss him."

The Military Order of the Purple Heart — made up of those wounded in battle — presented its initial Pat Tillman Patriot Award to his widow, Marie, as the Arizona State band spelled out "USA."

The former teammates, some of them in tears, formed a half-circle at the 42-yard line as the Arizona State band formed the number 42 and a framed jersey was unveiled. Washington State players wore a "PT 42" decal on their helmets.

Tillman, a safety for the Arizona Cardinals, walked away from the NFL and enlisted in the Army Rangers following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Tillman was killed last April during combat in Afghanistan.



Fireworks mark the occasion as relatives and former teammates applaud the retirement of Pat Tillman's jersey in a halftime ceremony Saturday night. The former Arizona State and Arizona Cardinals star who left the NFL to join the Army was killed last April in Afghanistan.

Okahoma drubs Nebraska on 34-10

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Jason White threw for 383 yards and three touchdowns to help No. 2 Oklahoma rout Nebraska 30-3 on Saturday.

With star running back Adrian Peterson seeing little action because of a shoulder injury, White completed 29 of 35 passes. After throwing three incomplete passes on his first eight attempts, the sixth-year senior completed a school-record 18 in a row in his final home game for the Sooners (10-0, 7-0 Big 12).

Peterson, who entered the game as the No. 5 rusher in the nation, played sparingly in the first half after dislocating his left shoulder in Oklahoma's victory over Texas A&M last week.

Cory Ross was the only bright spot for the Cornhuskers (5-5, 3-4) with 130 yards on 30 carries while breaking the game midway through the fourth quarter with an injury.

No. 5 California 42, Washington 12: At Seattle, J.J. Arrington ran for 84 of his 121 yards in the second half and Aaron Rodgers threw a shutout to throw two touchdowns passes.

Marshawn Lynch added another 121 yards rushing with TD



runs of 32 and 70 yards and a 29-yard scoring reception as the Golden Bears (8-1, 6-1 Pac-10) defeated the Huskies (1-9, 0-7).

Washington, which closes its worst season in 35 years next week at rival Washington State, hasn't finished winning in conference play since going 0-7 in the old Pac-8 back in 1973.

Arrington has posted 100-yard efforts in all nine games this season, a school record. The Pac-10 record is 11 by Southern California's Marcus Allen in 1981, when he won the Heisman Trophy.

Arrington is 45 yards from breaking Chuck Muncie's 29-year-old school record of 1,460 yards rushing. He'll get another shot when the Bears play rival Stanford next weekend.

No. 17 LSU 26, Alabama 10: At Baton Rouge, La., LSU defensive end Marcus Spears and linebacker Cameron Vaughn combined for the go-ahead touchdown for LSU.

With the Tigers trailing 10-6 in the third quarter, Spears hit Alabama quarterback Spencer Pen-

nington on the Crimson Tide 8, forcing a fumble. Vaughn picked up the ball and scampered in for the TD to give LSU its first lead.

It was the ninth straight home victory for LSU (7-2, 4-2 SRC) and a rare win over the Crimson Tide (6-4, 3-4) in Tiger Stadium. Alabama's Kenneth Darby, coming off a 200-yard performance a week ago at Mississippi State and averaging 106.3 yards, gained 109 yards.

No. 20 Arizona St. 45, Washington St. 28: At Tempe, Ariz., Andrew Walter passed for 332 yards and five touchdowns in his final home game for Arizona State. The senior completed 26 of 41 passes without an interception while breaking the school record for touchdowns passed in a season with 30. Mike Pagel set the old mark of 29 in 1981. Fifteen of Walter's TD passes came in his last three home games.

Walter, who holds the Pac-10 career record with 85 TD passes, threw for five touchdowns in a game for the fourth time. He had six against UCLA this season.

Arizona State (8-2, 5-2 Pac-10) was unbeaten at home (6-0) for the first time since going 11-0 overall in the 1996 regular season.

Auburn makes a bid for BCS title berth

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn appealed to the poll voters with a dominant performance that left coach Tommy Tuberville with little reason to give a stump speech.

The Tigers' 24-6 victory Saturday over No. 8 Georgia did it all.

"One thing I'd say: I'd hate to play us," Tuberville said. "I know the people will be fair when they vote. That's all we can ask."

Carris Williams, Ronnie Brown combined for 260 total yards and each scored a touchdown for the third-ranked Tigers, who may have earned the boost they needed in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

Auburn (10-0, 7-0 Southeastern Conference) was third in both polls and in the BCS standings behind Southern California and Oklahoma this week. The Tigers knew a big performance against the Bulldogs would go a long way toward convincing voters in The Associated Press media poll and coaches poll that they're better than the second-ranked Sooners, no matter what Oklahoma does in its last three games.

It appeared to work, as the AP voters moved Auburn into a tie with Oklahoma for second while the coaches, although keeping the Sooners and Tigers 2-3, separated them by only two points.

The updated BCS standings are to be released Monday. The top two teams in the final BCS standings will play in the Orange Bowl for the national championship.

"It's going to be hard not to vote for us," Williams said. One voter said he missed.

"I've been voting them high," Georgia coach Mark Richt said. "I think they are one of the best, if not the best team in the country."

The 108th meeting between the SEC's oldest rivals was also the third time the Tigers and Bulldogs (8-2, 6-2) were both ranked in the top 10 when they met. But Auburn turned one of the most anticipated games ever played at Jordan-Hare Stadium into rout.

Auburn's dynamic tailback tandem of Williams and Brown did it all offensively.

Williams ran 19 times for 101 yards and caught four passes for 20 yards. He also threw a TD pass and returned a punt 40 yards to set up Brown's 15-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter that made it 24-0.

Brown ran for 51 yards and caught seven passes for 88.

Georgia went scoreless for 57 minutes, before David Greene hit Leonard Pope with a 6-yard TD pass with 2:13 left.

Auburn's defense held the Bulldogs to 279 yards and came up with two key takeaways deep in its own territory.

The second turnover came in the third quarter with Georgia trailing 17-0, but threatening to make it a game. Greene found Reggie Brown for what would have been a first down inside the Auburn 20-yard safety when punter Gregory Hammered Brown, causing a fumble that Will Herrington scooped up for the Tigers.

Jerome Harrison rushed for 118 yards, including a 56-yard touchdown run, for Washington State (2-5, 4-6).

No. 22 Texas A&M 32, Texas Tech 25 (OT): At College Station, Texas, Courtney Lewis scored on a 25-yard run on the first play of overtime and Melvin Bullitt swatted away South Carolina's fourth-down pass into the end zone, sending the Aggies to a thrilling victory.

Lewis' second touchdown run of the afternoon helped Texas A&M (7-3, 4-2 Big 12) dramatically end a two-game losing streak that included an overtime loss at Baylor and a seven-point defeat against Oklahoma last week.

After Tech quarterback Sonny Cumbie's 50th and final pass of the afternoon fell incomplete, A&M players stormed the field and the frenzied Kyle Field crowd of 82,278 erupted with cheers. The Red Raiders (6-4, 4-3) tied it with 10 seconds left in regulation on Cumbie's 10-yard pass to Jarrett Hicks.

No. 23 Texas-El Paso 35, Rice 22 (OT): At El Paso, Jordan Palmer threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Johnnie Lee to give Texas-El Paso the lead in the second overtime, and Rice's Ed

Bailey then fumbled on the 2 to give the Miners the victory.

TTEP (7-5, 1 Western Athletic) was forced into the overtime when Rice (3-7, 2-5) recorded two safeties in the final 5:20. The second safety occurred when punter Bryce Benekos lost a rain-soaked ball out of the end zone with 17 seconds left.

Pittsburgh 41, No. 24 Notre Dame 38: At South Bend, Ind., Tyler Palko became the first quarterback to throw five touchdown passes against Notre Dame, four in the first half alone, and Josh Cribbs became the 32-yard field goal with a second left.

The Irish tied the game with a 45-yard field goal by D.J. Fitzpatrick with 1:11 left, but couldn't stop the Panthers. On Pitt's next play from scrimmage, Palko threw to Erik Gill for what appeared to be a short gain. But Irish linebacker Gabe Goosby tried to strip the ball and Gill broke free for a 36-yard gain.

Palko completed two more passes before the drive helped set up the winning field goal.

The Panthers (6-3), who became bowl eligible with the victory, won at Notre Dame Stadium for the first time since 1986. The Irish (6-4) lost three games at home for a second consecutive season.

Michigan St. takes Wisconsin out of national title contention

BY TIM MARTIN
The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Wisconsin's dream of an unbeaten season might have ended just before halftime Saturday at Michigan State.

That's when Anthony Davis went airborne toward the goal line on fourth-and-inches, expecting to score the game-tying touchdown against the upstart Spartans.

But two Michigan State players met him head-on to stop him just short — a pivotal play in a game that wound up a lopsided 49-14 Spartan victory.

"That was a big momentum shift," Davis said. "When something like that happens you really have to pull together as a team and get the momentum back, some how, some way. We didn't do that."

Michigan State used a powerful rushing attack, a trick play and a key defensive stand to defeat No. 4 Wisconsin and knock the Badgers out of the national championship race.

The Spartans (5-5, 4-3 Big Ten) handed the Badgers their first loss and knocked Wisconsin (9-1, 6-1) into a second-place tie with Iowa in the Big Ten behind Michigan. The victory keeps Michigan State's bowl hopes alive.

The Badgers entered the game ranked fifth in the Bowl Championship Series standings, primarily because of a dominating defense that had allowed 9.1 points a game — lowest in the nation.

But Michigan State rolled up 551 yards of total offense, including 430 on the ground.

It sent Michigan State seniors out in style in their final home game at Spartan Stadium.

"What a deal for our seniors, something they'll remember the rest of their lives," Michigan State coach John L. Smith said.

"Once we got the snowball rolling and got momentum, it was a good deal."

Jehnu Calcutick had 146 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries for the Spartans. Jason Teague had 112 yards and a TD on 17 carries. He also caught a 30-yard touchdown pass on a trick play in the first half, with the ball thrown by wide receiver Aaron Alexander.

Davis led Wisconsin with 128 yards on 21 carries, including a touchdown. But he and the Badgers were cascaded with chants of "overrated" early in the third quarter from more than 76,000 fans at Spartan Stadium.

When it was over, Badgers quarterback John Stocco looked lost at midfield, as Michigan State players, fans and band members swarmed in clusters around him.



USC's Dominique Byrd, top, is tackled by Arizona's Pat Howard on Saturday in Los Angeles. USC won 49-9 to clinch its second straight Pac-10 title and a trip to the Rose Bowl it might not be taking.

No. 1 USC claims Pac-10 title again

Trojans overwhelm Wildcats, cruise to 19th straight victory

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Just when it appeared Arizona was making a game of it, Southern California got it together.

A few minutes later, the outcome was decided.

LenDale White ran for 118 yards and three touchdowns, Matt Leinart passed for 280 yards and three more scores, and No. 1 USC beat outmanned Arizona 49-9 on Saturday night.

By winning their 19th straight game, the Trojans clinched the Pac-10 championship for the second straight year along with a berth in the Rose Bowl.

USC (10-0, 7-0 Pac-10) leads No. 5 California by one game with one remaining, but is the conference champion by virtue of its 23-17 victory over the Golden Bears last month.

"This is just a wonderful accomplishment for our program," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "At this point, we've done everything we can do with the season. So dear to our hearts, so important to our program, so important to our conference — when SC's in the Rose Bowl, it seems just right."

That won't happen in the best

case scenario because the Trojans have an opportunity for much more. If they beat Notre Dame and UCLA in their last two games, they almost surely will play for the national championship, to be contested in the Orange Bowl.

Arizona drew within 12 points late in the third quarter, scoring its only touchdown after USC's third lost fumble of the game.

But the Trojans responded by scoring three TDs in the next seven minutes to put the Wildcats away.

USC's latest triumph also extended its winning streak in Pac-10 games to 14, and its winning streak at the Los Angeles Coliseum to 20. That ties the school record for consecutive victories at home, accomplished twice in the 1920s.

The Trojans have won 30 of their last 31 games and six this season by 30 or more points.

White, a 6-foot-2, 235-pound sophomore from Denver, scored on runs of 3, 2 and 6 yards, giving him 15 touchdowns in 10 games this season and 29 in 23 games overall.

Leinart completed a career-high 27 passes in 35 attempts including 11 straight at one stage and wasn't intercepted.

Miami wins at Virginia to stay in ACC hunt

BY HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Roscoe Parrish looked like he had sealed the game once already with a dazzling 62-yard punt return for a touchdown.

But when No. 10 Virginia rallied on Saturday and the Miami Hurricanes needed one more play to clinch it, Parrish was the man again, catching a 25-yard touchdown pass on fourth down

with 51 seconds left for a 31-21 Miami victory.

The victory put the No. 18 Hurricanes (7-2, 4-2) back on course for a possible ACC championship and Bowl Championship Series berth, and restored some of the swagger lost in two consecutive losses on the final play.

"You can't just push us over," Parrish said. "You can't just expect for teams to come out and do whatever they want to do against us. When our backs are against

the wall, we're going to handle our business."

Parrish handled a lot of it himself, adding a 45-yard punt return to help set up another score.

A third-and-5 completion for 34 yards to Talib Humphrey with 2:24 left made the clinching touchdown by Parrish possible, deflating a record crowd that was trying to help inspire an improbable comeback.

"That wasn't a key first down, it was a huge first down," Hurricanes coach Larry Coker said. "What's a level above huge? Is there a word?"

Frank Gore also had a big day for Miami, running for a career-best 195 yards and a touchdown on a career-high 28 carries.

Parrish, almost forgotten as a punt returner because of the exploits of speedster Devin Hester, did more damage than anyone. He took a punt at his own 38 with just over 7 minutes left, cut across the field and turned down the sideline to make it 24-14.

Later, after Virginia (7-2, 4-2) used a four-play, 79-yard drive to close to 24-21 with 3:19 left, Parrish caught Brock Berlin's pass in the corner of the end zone, restoring the margin to 10 and ending any comeback threat.

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Hagan 9-113, Mutz 5-56, Z. Miller 5-39, M. Miller 3-86, Richardson 2-25, Hill 2-13, Burghgraef 1-34.

Vick's TD pass lifts Falcons s. Buc

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons were irate, feeling they had just been robbed of a touchdown.

They didn't let it keep them down for long.

Bouncing back after the officials denied the apparent defensive TD, Alce Crumpler hauled in a 49-yard scoring pass from

Michael Vick and the Falcons held on for 24-14 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers

NFL roundup

on Sunday.

Crumpler had four catches for a career-best 118 yards, and the Falcons rushed for 205 yards. Meanwhile, the Atlanta defense had a season-high seven sacks to make life miserable for Brian Griese, and pressured him into a late interception that sealed the victory.

The Falcons (7-2) scored on their first three possessions for a 17-0 lead, but the Bucs (3-6) were in position to at least kick a tying field goal early in the fourth quarter.

That's when the craziness began.

On third-and-1 at the Atlanta 28, Michael Pittman was stopped short of the first down by a pack of defenders. Before he went down, Travis Hall stripped the ball loose.

Chris Draft scooped it up, was tripped by one of his teammates but got back up, and kept running all the way to the end zone. No one seemed to know what happened. The Falcons celebrated and sent their extra-point team on the field. Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden threw a red flag to signal he was challenging the call.

The officials huddled briefly and decided they had whistled the play dead when Pittman's forward progress was stopped.

After Pittman was stuffed on fourth-and-1, Atlanta took over and quickly drove for the decisive touchdown.

The Falcons, who came in with a three-game lead in the NFC South, took a major step toward locking up only the third division title in franchise history.

Tampa Bay, which started this season 4-0, lost for only the second time in its last five games.

Ravens 20, Jets 17 (OT): At East Rutherford, N.J., Matt Stover kicked a 49-yard field goal with 7:39 remaining in overtime.



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick (7) is brought down by Tampa Bay Buccaneers end Greg Spikes (94) during the first half Sunday in Atlanta. Vick ran for 73 yards on just nine carries.

Last season, Stover kicked two game-winning field goals in overtime for Baltimore (6-3).

Kyle Bolter got the Ravens in position for the winning score by converting a third-and-5 from the Baltimore 49 with a 21-yard pass to Kevin Johnson. Bolter then completed a 10-yard pass to Travis Taylor on third-and-14 from the Jets 34 to put the Ravens in field goal range.

Bolter was 19-for-33 for 213 yards with two touchdowns, but to rookie Clarence Moore. Jamal Lewis had 30 carries for 68 yards. The Jets (6-3) have lost three of their last four games.

Jaguars 23, Lions 17 (OT): At Jacksonville, Fla., David Garrard threw two touchdown passes, including a 36-yarder to Jimmy Smith in overtime. Garrard, making his first start in nearly two years, finished 19-for-36 for 198 yards and added 42 yards rushing.

Fred Taylor had a season-high 144 yards rushing as the Lions (4-5) were outgained on the ground for a second consecutive week and lost their third straight game. Washington's Clinton Portis ran for 147 yards against Detroit last week.

The Lions sent it to overtime because Eddie Drummond re-

turned two punts for touchdowns in the fourth quarter, a 55-yarder and then an 83-yarder with 46 seconds remaining.

Bears 19, Titans 17 (OT): At Nashville, Tenn., Alex Brown sacked backup Billy Volek in the end zone and knocked the ball loose for a safety and an overtime victory.

It was only the second time an NFL game has ended in overtime on a safety. The first was Nov. 5, 1989, when Minnesota beat the Los Angeles Rams 23-21 when Mike Merrittwide blocked Dave Hatcher's punt and the ball rolled out of the end zone.

The victory gave the Bears (4-5) their first three-game winning streak since the end of the 2001 season — Chicago's last playoff appearance.

Tennessee (3-6) allowed Steve McNair another week to rest his bruised and aching chest, giving Volek the fourth start of his career.

Colts 49, Texans 14: At Indianapolis, Peyton Manning threw five touchdowns for the third time this season and completed 18 of 27 passes for 320 yards.

Indianapolis (6-3) won its second straight and retained its share of the AFC South lead with

Jacksonville.

Manning, the only player in NFL history to throw five TDs four times in a 12-month span, engineered three touchdown drives that used a total of 2:06. After three quarters, Manning had just one more incompleting (six) than he did touchdown passes, and he surpassed his last year's TD total of 29. The 2003 co-MVP now has 31 touchdown passes this year; Dan Marino's NFL record is 48.

Rams 23, Seahawks 12: At St. Louis, Marc Bulger got off to a hot start and a beleaguered defense held Seattle to three field goals in five trips inside the 20, earning the Rams a first-place tie with the Seahawks in the NFC West.

The Rams (5-4) had drawn the ire of coach Mike Martz, who twice put the season on their backs after consecutive losses to the beat-up Patriots and previously winless Dolphins. They responded to Mad Mike by sweeping the season series with Seattle.

Shaun Alexander had 176 yards on 22 carries, giving him 531 yards the last three games and putting him over 1,000 yards for the fourth straight season. But Alexander's fumble after a 35-yard gain to the St. Louis 49 early in the fourth quarter blew the Seahawks' chance to tie it.

Marshall Faulk finished with a season-best 139 yards on 18 carries.

The Seahawks (5-4) were limited to four field goals by Josh Brown.

Saints 27, Chiefs 20: At New Orleans, Aaron Brooks threw a 42-yard touchdown pass to Joe Horn midway through the fourth quarter and the Saints (4-5) rallied to win. With the score tied at 20, the Saints drove 72 yards to take the lead with 5:35 remaining.

The Chiefs (3-6) responded by driving to the Saints 17, but Derrick Haskins could not handle a pass from Trent Green and linebacker Orlando Ruff grabbed it to preserve the victory.

The Chiefs gained 497 yards, and Green threw for 311 yards. Blaylock, playing for the injured Priest Holmes, had 33 carries for 186 yards and a touchdown.

Deuce McAllister had his second 100-yard game of the season for New Orleans, rushing for 127 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries.

Horn had five catches for 167 yards.

Giants sign Vizquel to 3-year deal

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Free agent shortstop Omar Vizquel has agreed to terms with the San Francisco Giants, the team announced Sunday.

Vizquel agreed to a \$12.25 million, three-year contract, a person close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

MLB briefs

Vizquel, a nine-time Gold Glove winner, becomes the first of 207 free agents to join a new team, and the second to sign overall after Texas reliever Doug Brocaw returned to the Rangers on Friday on a \$1 million, one-year deal.

The 37-year-old Vizquel, one of baseball's best defensive shortstops, and a switch-hitter, batted .291 (165-for-567) with seven homers and 59 RBIs last season for the Cleveland Indians. He also scored 82 runs, stole 19 bases and did not commit an error over the last 55 games.

Vizquel filed for free agency last month after the Indians declined to pick up his \$5 million option for 2005. Vizquel had said he wanted to return for a 12th season in Cleveland, where he grew into one of the franchise's most popular players, but the Indians said his return would be "a long shot." General manager Mark Shapiro's priority this offseason is pitching.

Major league All-Stars win final game of Japan tour

TOKYO — Vernon Wells went 3-for-4 with a homer, and David Ortiz also homered for the touring major leaguers in a 5-0 victory over the Japanese All-Stars.

The major league stars snapped a three-game losing streak, after winning the first four straight, and won the eight-game series 5-3.

The major league team earned about \$1 million on the trip, which will be divided among the players and officials.

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United capture fourth MLS Cup

By Ken Peters
The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — D.C. United won an unprecedented fourth MLS Cup on Sunday, beating Kansas City 3-2.

United snuffed the Wizards an early goal, then scored three times in a seven-minute span of the first half to move in front for the net in the 26th minute.

Alecko Eskandarian scored in the 19th minute to tie it 1-1, then added another goal four minutes later.

United built a two-goal lead on an own-goal when a pass by Earnie Stewart deflected off Wizards' defender Alex Zetina and into the net in the 26th minute.

Kansas City, the 2000 MLS Cup champion, pulled within 3-2 on Josh Wolff's penalty kick in the 58th minute. The Wizards were awarded the kick when United's Dema Kovalenko, protecting the goal line, used his hand to knock a shot by Davy Arnaud over the bar.

Kovalenko was ejected, the first player sent off in the nine-year history of the Cup.

Despite being down a man, United held off the Wizards the rest of the way.

Freddy Adu, United's 18-year-old phenom, came on as a substitute in the 65th minute to a roar from the crowd of 25,797. He made a run down the side with the ball late in the game, but goalkeeping Bo Oler Novak, United's rookie coach, assisted on both the Fire's goals and was the MVP of that title game six years ago.

It was United's fifth appearance in Major League Soccer's championship game, but the first since a 2-0 victory over Los Angeles in 1999. The only loss in those five trips was a 2-0 defeat by Chicago in 1998. Peter Novak, United's rookie coach, assisted on both the Fire's goals and was the MVP of that title game six years ago.

After Jose Burciaga's curling 35-yard shot seemed to catch United's defense napping and gave the Wizards the lead in the sixth minute, Eskandarian got United rolling.

His first goal was a workmanlike individual effort. His second came after a Kansas City clearing pass bounced off his arm and toward the Wizards' goal.

Eskandarian, with the Wizards' Diego Gutierrez tight on him at the top of the box, controlled a pass from Brian Carroll, fought his way around Gutierrez and boomed the ball into the right upper corner of the net to draw United even.

He made it 2-1 four minutes later when he came flying in — up to — to deflect the ball as Jimmy Conrad tried to kick it downfield. As the ball rolled toward the goal, Eskandarian chased it down and then shot to the right. Oler Novak went left.

The apparent handball went unnoticed by referee Michael Kennedy.



Marlin Truex Jr. (8) leads the pack at the start of the Bi-Lo 200 on Saturday in Darlington, S.C. At left is Kyle Busch (5). Truex's fourth-place finish Saturday earned him the NASCAR Busch Series title.

Johnson's sweep at Darlington tightens chase for Nextel Cup

The Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Jimmie Johnson took advantage of a pit mistake by Jeff Gordon's team and won the final Southern 500 on Sunday, making the tightest championship chase in NASCAR history even closer with one race remaining.

Kurt Busch, who fought an ill-handling car after his Ford was damaged early in the race, somehow overcame adversity again to post a sixth-place finish and retain the points lead going into next Sunday's finale at Homestead.

"My guys' last two pits stops got me off pit road first and that was the key," said Johnson, who had to overtake rookie Kasey Kahne and Jamie McMurray. They stayed out when the other leaders pitted for tires during the last of eight caution periods.

The race restarted with 18 to go in the 367-lap event and Johnson, in third, passed Kahne for second place on lap 352 and took the lead from McMurray on 359. Then he pulled away to his series-leading eighth victory of the year and fourth in the last five races.

He also won the Darlington race in March.

Johnson teammate Gordon, a six-time Darlington winner, appeared on the way to an easy victory until he pitted on lap 337 during another caution period. His car came down on an air hose, costing him precious time. The

Racing roundup

four-time series champion, who was leading coming into pit road, came out sixth.

He charged to the end but couldn't catch Johnson or runner-up Mark Martin. McMurray finished fourth, followed by Kahne and Busch.

Heading to Homestead, Busch, who came into Sunday's race leading Gordon by 41 points, now leads Johnson by 18 and Gordon by 21. Dale Earnhardt Jr., who had to pit late in the race to change a battery, finished 11th and now trails by 72 points, with Martin 82 behind.

The Southern 500, which traditionally was run on Labor Day Weekend, was moved to November when NASCAR gave the holiday date to the newer, bigger California Speedway. Darlington, which holds only about 60,000 spectators, will lose the second event to Texas Motor Speedway next year and will have only a May race.

Truex wraps up Busch title

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Martin Truex Jr.'s fourth-place finish Saturday at Darlington Raceway gave Dale Earnhardt Jr. the first of two series championships he covets this year.

With the help of a bad day by

Busch Series runner-up Kyle Busch, Truex wrapped up the title with one more race remaining in the 2004 season, giving Chance 2 Motorsports, co-owned by Earnhardt and his stepmother, Teresa, their first championship.

"I never thought this would ever come true," Truex said.

Jamie McMurray shared the spotlight with Truex, winning his second race in a row and giving the new Rusty Wallace Inc. team its first series victory.

Truex is the first driver to win a Busch championship in his first full season since Earnhardt got the first of his two consecutive titles in 1998. The new champion has been the top driver in the series most of the year, leading the series in wins (6), poles (4), top fives (17) and top 10s (25).

Kahne gets truck victory after hard-luck Nextel Cup season

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Kasey Kahne ended an historic night at Darlington Raceway with a milestone of his own — winning the Darlington 200 Saturday in his first NASCAR truck series start.

Kahne, a 24-year-old rookie on the Nextel Cup circuit, has finished second five times this season.

But it was a decision this week to drive the No. 2 team's Dodge that led him to Victory Lane this season in the first night race at Darlington.

"It feels pretty awesome to win this race, especially at Darlington," Kahne said.

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Davenport ousted from round-robin tournament

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Lindsay Davenport rallied for a 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 victory over Serena Williams in the WTA Championships on Saturday, although her No. 1 ranking was in jeopardy after she failed to reach the semifinals.

Davenport owns a 351-point lead over No. 2 Amelie Mauresmo, who could regain the top spot she held for five weeks after the U.S. Open if she wins the tournament.

Mauresmo defeated Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova 7-5, 6-4 to extend her 11-match winning streak, including titles in Austria and Philadelphia the last two weeks.

Davenport was knocked out when French Open champion Anastasia Myskina beat Elena Dementieva 6-3, 6-2. Myskina and Sharapova were the only two women to reach the eight-woman tournament to advance.

Davenport and Myskina finished round-robin play in the Red Group with 2-1 match records. The deciding factor was Myskina's 5-2 record in sets won; Davenport was 4-3.

Mauresmo and Sharapova advanced to the semifinals out of the Black Group. Mauresmo had a 3-0 record; Sharapova was 2-1.

Byrd, Ruiz retain titles; Holyfield loses again

NEW YORK — Chris Byrd felt the power and found the canvas.

Then Jaseel Melina found out what made Byrd a heavyweight champion in the first place.

Giving away 56 pounds and several inches, Byrd survived a second-round knockdown and a bigger man's punch to retain his IBF heavyweight title Saturday night on a split decision by the narrowest of margins.

The fight was the best of two title bouts at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Melina, who had won a title in the past, was knocked out by a heavy punch from Byrd in the first round.

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Tulane freshman Forte stuns Army

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Army knocked out Tulane's prolific starting quarterback, only to be worn out by a feisty freshman running back.

Matt Forte ran for 216 yards on 34 carries and had 283 total yards and four touchdowns to help Tulane beat Army 45-31 on Saturday night.

"Coach told me going in that we were going to run the ball a lot and keep pounding it at them. I knew I'd have a chance for a big game," Forte said. "I've been playing all year so the butterflies have

Service academy roundup

been gone since the first or second game."

Forte turned a short side-line pass from Lester Ricard into a 47-yard score in the second quarter, then had two short touchdown runs and a scoring run of 48 yards after Ricard led early in the third quarter with a right wrist injury (his throwing arm).

Forte ran for 159 yards in the second half as the Green Wave (4-5, 2-4 Conference USA) shifted from their usual pass-oriented at-

tack to a time-consuming ground game.

"We never did stop them," Army coach Bobby Ross said.

San Diego St. 37, Air Force 31

Kevin O'Connell threw for 232 yards and two touchdowns, and Brandon Bornes ran for 103 yards and two more scores to help San Diego State end a six-game losing streak.

O'Connell was 17-for-32 despite frigid temperatures and the visiting Air Force (3-7, 1-5 Mountain West) scored 17 points in the third quarter after forcing two turnovers and blocking a punt.

SPORTS



Johnson wins for fourth time in five races as Chase for Cup gets even tighter heading into finale, Page 31

No slowdown for Steelers

Pittsburgh wins seventh straight with rookie Roethlisberger at QB

BY TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Ben Roethlisberger walked out of Browns Stadium with his head and perfect record intact.

Unfazed by Gerard Warren's pregame threats or anything Cleveland's defense threw at him, Roethlisberger became the first rookie quarterback to begin 7-0 since the 1970 merger as the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Browns 24-10 on Sunday.

"Ben doesn't get rattled," said wide receiver Hines Ward. "For him [Warren] to make comments like that wasn't very smart. I guess maybe he's jealous of Ben."

He may not be the only one. Jerome Bettis had two short touchdown runs for the Steelers (8-1), who won their seventh straight game and continued their best start since opening 1978, when they went 9-1.

They did it by taking smash-mouth football to a new extreme. During pregame warmups, Pittsburgh linebacker Joey Porter punched Browns running back William Green, bloodying his lower lip during their fight. Both were ejected before the opening kickoff.

After handing New England and Philadelphia their first losses the past two weeks, Pittsburgh figured to be due for a letdown.

That will have to wait until next week — maybe — as the Steelers remained the NFL's hottest team.

"We haven't done anything yet," Steelers coach Bill Cowher said. "We're fighting and scratching for everything we can get every week. We're not that much better than that team over there."

Bettis, starting for the second straight week in place of the injured Duce Staley, gained 103 yards on 29 carries. He scored on TD runs from the 5 and 1 in the first half.

Bettis had a chance to score a third TD, but couldn't get over



Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Plaxico Burress (80) catches a pass in front of Cleveland Browns defender Anthony Henry on the 2-yard line in the fourth quarter of Pittsburgh's 24-10 victory Sunday in Cleveland.

the goal line despite three cracks from Cleveland's 1 in the fourth quarter.

"That's my job, what I'm here for is to be a relief pitcher," said Bettis, now 5 yards behind Tony Dorsett for fifth on the league's career rushing list. "This team is special. The guys behind the starters have to help. That happened

today. James Harrison had a real good game."

Harrison filled in for Porter, who exchanged spit and fists with Green during their pregame bout near the 50. Harrison had six tackles and one of Pittsburgh's four sacks on Browns quarterback Jeff Garcia.

On another sack, Steelers safety

ty Russell Stuvaints returned Garcia's fumble 24 yards for a TD.

The 104th game in the NFL's fiercest rivalry was particularly nasty — beforehand.

Earlier in the week, Warren promised to go after Roethlisberger's head, saying: "Kill the head and the body is dead." Warren was warned by the league on Fri-

day to watch himself or risk a suspension.

Warren, who had one tackle, said he spoke with Roethlisberger before the game and explained his comments.

"They were private words not to be repeated," Warren said.

Roethlisberger said Warren was respectful.

"We talked a little bit, we laughed," Roethlisberger said.

"He said, 'Let's play football, forget about what was said and enjoy today.' That was OK with me."

Roethlisberger wasn't spectacular, just efficient. He finished 10-for-16 for 134 yards. He also had 41 yards rushing as he smartly avoided pressure by running from trouble the few times the Browns (3-6) were able to get him in any trouble.

Roethlisberger gained 13 yards on a key third-and-1 late in the third quarter. He got the Browns to bite on a fake handoff and ran around left end, picking up a nice block from wide receiver Plaxico Burress for the first down.

Garcia was under siege almost every time he dropped back. He went 7-for-16 for 110 yards, was sacked four times and threw an interception.

He was replaced by Kelly Holcomb with 9 minutes left and the Steelers up by three TDs. Holcomb threw a 7-yard TD pass to Aaron Shea.

Garcia was disappointed with the Browns' latest defeat, their third straight. It was more of the same: too many turnovers, penalties and mistakes.

"You name it," Garcia said, "we do it the wrong way."

With the Browns dropping farther back in the AFC North, coach Butch Davis' future in Cleveland appears in jeopardy. He was asked if he was worried about his job security.

"I'm more concerned about the 53 guys in that locker room getting respect," he said.

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After two straight overtime victories, Sixers beat Magic in regulation

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SS Vizquel agrees to three-year deal with Giants

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